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HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

ANNUAL PUBLICATION

LOS ANGELES
1934



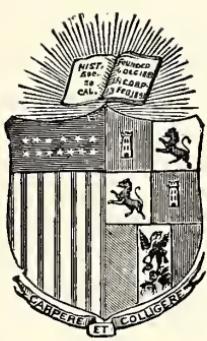
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HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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1934

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OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

1934

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Rancho (Art. Chico; — Col. San Williams.

Register. Names of awards from the United States.

Alameda 1849.
Sutter's Landing 1850.

N
B
G
L
E
F
A
E
R
R
G
H
O
B
G
L

Wm. H. Goddard

John Hunter

John Ford

James

J. F.

Capt.

Wm. C.

Compt.

Wm. H. Williams

of New York, 1st June 1849 via San Fran. City

Alameda, to Fort Smith, 28th March San Francisco

State Dept.; Compt. Rec'd. San Fran. 28th March

June 1st via San Fran. Grand Total \$1,000,000.00

Gov. Kearney's West, to Los Angeles, 200 miles from San Fran.

Tribes of Pechanga (Kaweah) to Goddard, 40 miles

to San Fran., much hills & little flat ground, 40

20 miles from Fort Smith, in a small valley, Capt. Williams

and 40 men. Many of this Mif. Indians to San Fran.

Left through the mountains to San Fran. via them to San Fran. (from San Fran. to Marysville)

Sent by the Sepia Company left San Fran. 20 May

thence to Rio Grande, Agua Calientes, Monterrey, etc.

the Mountain top & lands gradually faint to a low

July 28th first destruction of property, Monterrey, in

very violent, Indians and English to San Fran.

then San Fran. away. Indians lost on way or

much property taken by the Indians. San Fran.

Concord, crossed the Colorado July 9th San Fran.

left Rock River with Spanish Indians for San Fran.

Aug. 1st 43 hours riding the Donet, in tank

boat and foot across the river of that. 30 miles pro-

gress rock, San Fran. and San Fran. Indians who

to be the Fox & Mohave & the Colorado, 200 miles. In

immense government many traps and traps 2000

from Indians and went out of them. Unusual

of San Fran. (San Fran. is a Mexican town)

beginning very early in morning & continued past

some of them getting to the table in their houses to

have dinner the Indians, on them it was

done of the Indians camping (from Fort Smith) & so

they all away the Indians when they had their dinner

in the company

left Aug.

THE RECORD BOOK
OF THE
RANCHO SANTA ANA DEL CHINO

[Transcribed and edited by Lindley Bynum]

INTRODUCTION

THE Rancho Santa Ana del Chino was granted by Governor Alvarado on March 26, 1841 to Antonio Maria Lugo.

It was purchased by his son-in-law, Isaac Williams, and he in turn on April 1 of the year 1843 obtained an additional grant of lands adjoining. The name is a matter of dispute. Ingersoll¹ cites as a possible source of the name the presence of a curly-leaf willow growing there. Caballeria² states that the name was given because of a curly-haired vaquero who lived at the ranch. Three dictionaries — Appleton's, Velasquez, and that of the Real Academia Español, define the word *chino* as meaning of or belonging to China, Chinese language; as denoting a simple mind and as referring to the descendant of an Indian and a negro or a mulatto and a negro. The *Enciclopedia Universal* while citing these meanings also mentions the fact that in Mexico it is used to denote curly hair, also a smooth round stone and elsewhere, smooth bald land or hills.

Isaac Williams was born in Wyoming Valley, Pennsylvania, on September 19, 1799. He arrived in Los Angeles in April, 1832, with Ewing Young's trappers, and like many of the mountain men of that period, he elected to stay in California. He trapped for a time, but in 1834 he erected a building on the *Calle Principale* and started a mercantile business. This building, later sold to the City of Los Angeles, is said to have served as the executive office for the governor during the time the capital resided in the south. It was later used as a court house when Los Angeles county was organized. Williams early took part in the affairs of the commonwealth. During the next two years he obtained a certificate of residence from the *Ayuntamiento*, assisted in removing the Indians from San Nicolas Island and became a member of the Vigilance Committee. In 1839 he became naturalized as a Mexican citizen, and

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shortly after he married Maria de Jesus Lugo. His wife died in 1842 and he soon removed to the Rancho where he lived for the rest of his life.

The Rancho prospered under his hand. Robinson,³ stopping there on one of his hide buying expeditions wrote: "At the farmhouse of Isaac W_____ we stopped awhile to rest our horses. It is the most spacious building of the kind in the country, and possesses all desirable conveniences." In his narrative of the battle in 1846, Don Benito Wilson⁴ says: "... an old adobe built in the usual Mexican style with a patio inside entirely inclosed by rooms, with only one large door for entrance to the main patio or square. The house was probably over three hundred feet long . . ."

In the year 1846 Williams or Don Julian as he was often called, offered to build a fort at Cajon if in return he might bring \$25,000 worth of goods into the country duty free. On September 27, of this year occurred one of the skirmishes of the Mexican war in California. The chief authority for this episode is Benjamin Wilson, who with a party took refuge at the Rancho and was there besieged by a number of Californians, among whom was José del Camun Lugo of the San Bernadino Rancho. The attacking party set fire to the pitch roof of the hacienda and the Americans were forced to surrender.

William Heath Davis,⁵ visiting the rancho in 1847 writes:

"I arrived at the great hacienda - El Chino - an hour before midday . . . A sumptuous dinner was relished after my ride. At table were more than twenty persons, among whom was the family of the proprietor.

"I took a great interest in the big establishment, receiving from the American haciendado every attention possible. His treatment of me was a reminder of the cordial receptions of the old Spanish haciendados . . .

"I found the enterprising man in the midst of his *matanza*, with more than a thousand steers slaughtered, the work to be continued until two

RECORD BOOK OF THE RANCHO DEL CHINO

thousand or more were killed. I observed with great interest the try-pots bubbling with the melted tallow and *manteca* . . .

"Don Julian's home was built in the heart of a fertile valley, in which were thirty thousand horned cattle, sheep, and horses. It seemed to me like a young Mission with American ideas added to the ancient notions of improvements."

This was the Rancho at the time of the gold discovery by James W. Marshall in January, 1848. With the resultant "rush" the world is familiar. The emigrants came by many routes. Some sailed round Cape Horn; some to the Isthmus of Panama, which they crossed, and obtained passage up the Pacific. The overland routes were many—up the Missouri, the Platte, across the Humboldt Sink and over the Sierra Nevada; the same way to Salt Lake, thence southwest and across Walker or Cajon passes; from Fort Smith or points South to Santa Fé, thence to the Colorado River and across the desert. These general routes were infinitely varied. Many travelers started on one route, changed to another and perhaps changed back on the way across. Some went farther south into Mexico and back, but most of the southern routes converged at the Colorado River near the present town of Yuma. A majority of the travelers from this point passed through the *Rancho Santa Ana del Chino*. Similarly, the emigrants coming through Cajon Pass visited this establishment, to replenish their stores and strength.

The record book here presented was instituted in the year 1849, and served as a register, a record of experiences of the overland travel and as a clearing house of information for parties following, regarding destination and disposition of effects and cattle. What percentage of the argonauts inscribed themselves here it is hard to say. By 1850 there was a government post and store house here and doubtless there were some, who like Judge Benjamin Hayes,⁶ found these sufficient to their needs and for one reason or another did not enter the ranch house. He bears testimony, however, that many people

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found Williams' hospitality very welcome. At any rate there were many peripetetic scribes who have left us an interesting record.

The utmost care has been taken in the transcription to preserve the spelling and punctuation of the original. As here printed it is not a line for line reproduction, since to do that would have entailed the waste of much space. Where feasible, the position of the different entries on the page has been preserved so that the general effect is the same. The resultant printing contains every readable word and phrase of the original, the debatable passages having been rechecked many times.

The editor desires to thank the Trustees of the Huntington Library for permission to print this manuscript. He also wishes to express his gratitude to Captain Reginald Haselden, curator of manuscripts; to Mr. Herbert Schultz, his assistant, and to Miss Josephine McDuffee and Miss Phyllis Rigney for their kind assistance in deciphering and checking the document and the transcript.

THE RECORD BOOK

Rancho del Chino, — Col Isaac Williams

Register. Names of arrivals from the United States.

[p. 1]

Col Isaac Williams

Arrived 1849

Sunday PM Augt 12th Wm R Goulding (John Hunter (of New York. left Wm Ford (formerly of Ohio Rivirs Mississ- Capt Ebbits s[ippi] & Arkansas, Company of to Fort Smith., 26th Knickerbockers March. V i a Little Rivir Shoto Fort, Canadian Rivir . . . Bents Fort SanTa Fe June 1st Via. Rio Grand Del Nord - Albiquick⁷ Secoia Gen Kearney's Rout, to Cow Spring. Met with Several Tribes of Apacheis (Friendly) to Godiloupe Pass thence to Deserted Ranchos much Wild Cattle the Glorious 4th July 20 miles from Sant Croix in a fine Vally - Capt Carter and 40 Men. Plenty of Wild Beef, thence to San Pedro Crossed, through the Mountain Pass to San Croix Rivir thence to Touson (Mexican Garrison 100 Mex Troops) Joind by the Texian Company Capt Duval, 60 men thence to Rio Gila, Pejnos & Coco Mari-copa, thence the Mountain Pass & Cerious Gigantica Forrest. to Rio Calerado July 26th - Great Destruction of Property, Humas Indian Very Troublesome, Trecherous and disposed to war - sending their Families away - Some lives lost in crossing and much property Stolen by the Indians. - Some Animals Drowned. I crossed the Colerada July 29th Safe left a Black Horse on the opposite Side, as food for the Humas - 43 Hours Passing the Desert. met with a Lake and fast Runing Stream of Water 30 miles from Crisso Creek. this Water Not Heretofore Known. Supposed to be the Back Waters of the Colerada - great many Animals

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given out - many Waggons left - 2 men died from Fatigue and wand - one of them named []^s of New York City. ("his Father is a Merchant Tailor in Broadway N York City") Americans very careless, Travelling in to Small Parties Some of them Setting little Value in their Arms and Ammunition Giving their Enemies the advantage over them. I Have known Some of the Cherokee Company (from Fort Gibson) to actualy through away their Arms when they had Spare Mules in their Company.
left. Augt

Rancho del Chino August the 17th 1849

I was presant at the Colorado river when the indians were engagued in crossing the different little parties of American emigrants 5 d river Aug the 4th they Stoled Several mules from the Bostonians and, N yorkers under pretence of Swimg them over the river they went off down the river with whole raft loads of clothing I should Supose from what men told me on honor the loss of the little party crossing that time could not have been less than 12,000 dollars concluding a waggon train that crossed about the same time 2 of the Bostonians were lost here S. Kingsley and S. Spaulding the indians showed signes of actual hostility they had sent of[f] their families they frequently assembled in large boddies not mor than 1|4 of a mile from our party in fact we prepared to give them Battle at one time but They retreated fireing several guns at us and I think without Some active measures are taken to prevent it that there will be many valuable lives lost | from the

[p. 2]

fact that emigrants become very careless and frequently come to the rio Colorado in parties of not more than 4 of 5 together even women and children will fall beneath the hand of the Brutal Savage we crossed at the junction of of the Gila and Colorado — — — Some 15 miles below where we crossed the river we were fired upon by another party of indians in the night time

RECORD BOOK OF THE RANCHO DEL CHINO

Jack W. Smith of the Texas Rangers —

We the undersigned hereby certify to the above this August the 17th | 49.

	where from	Destiney—
Wm Murdock	Cincinnati Ohio	Gold Region
John Harris	Arkansas—	_____
Albert G Creath	—do—	_____
J. P. Beaird	Shelbyville, Texas	_____
John C Kerr	Arks	do
Eli Shirman	do do	
Geo Churchill Aug 21	Troy N. Y.	do do
Chas Churchill " "	Troy N. Y.	do do
John W Jackson " "	New York City	do "

[p. 3]

The Company consisting of Hamilton Jackson Geo & Chas Churchill left New York February 5, 1849 traveling via Ohio Mississippi & Arkansas rivirs to Fort Smith, from thence over the Great American Desert to Santa fe! on our road we met but one party of Comanches they were friendly having large numbers of horses & mules, at this time we had ninety seven men under command of Capt I. A. N Ebbetts, arrived in Santa fe May 28 left Santa fe May 31 and traveled to Abicue from thence to the Rio Chamas this river being so rapid we could not cross it, and it was deemed advisable to return and take the Gila route, at this time our Company numbered one hundred and fourteen men under command of Capt Day - June 9 turned back and arrived in Abacue June 11. we then made up a Company of ninety seven men under Command of Capt Miller and hired Francisco a Mexican guide to conduct us to the Pacific coast we traveled down the Rio Grande to Kearneys pass - and in five days from the time we left the Rio Grande we struck the Rio Gila. we traveled on the Gila to the Pimas Village. left it then for one day then struck it again and traveled to the Rio Colorado. the river was very high - crossed it Aug 7. loosing one mule by drowning the

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Indians were friendly towards us at this point our company was disbanded and we traveled to Col. Williams ranche with only six men —

Aug 21, 1849

This certifies that in crossing the Colorado on the 7th inst our party of about 40 men we lost 19 mules and at least \$1500 worth of money & Baggage taken from us by the Indians

Thos E. Ridley Capt. Tenn.

Aug 22, 1849

John P. Hoyt — New York

Schuyler Hoes, New York

J A Kanouse New Jersey

[p. 4]

Joseph Sumner. of North Carolina

Hiram Green New York City

Barnabas Pike " " "

Stanislaus Lasselle Indiana

John W. Hendricks New York, City

— — — — — August 23 1849 Arrived here at the ranch of the Cheeney

William P. Stodder,

Robed by the Indians at the Colarado River of two mules and one Horse principal part of Clothing and Provisions

— — — — — Cornell Golding left fer Montry August 23 —

Capt Lane also with his party from Peres —

— — — — — August 26. Abraham Powell, James Matthews, Wm Boyd, Germon Harold, Peter Coin & Pierce L. D. Gibbs - B. B. Harris, John W. Kelly J. T. Kelly & J. F. Arnott & Capt Jos. & Joel Lewis also Capt Day and his party passed this morning. They passed the Colorado with but little loss These are from Alabama and Texas. Left, the Rio Grande May 1. — Some came by the wy of Chihuahua and some by the way of Passo del Norte Wm. S. Christian of Kentucky died two days travel beyond the Colorado

RECORD BOOK OF THE RANCHO DEL CHINO

James McDuffie	Key West	Left Rio Grande
J. C. Martin Elly	" "	April 27. —
F. Ogden	New York	Passed the Coloradon on the 12.
J. Licher	Key West	Come via Monterey Pass of Chihuahua

We certify that on our arrival here at the Rancho del Chino, there came up a party of Sonorenianos, who had Stolen a horse mare from Said Rancho; - and in our presence M. I Williams dismounted the thief who confessed that he had taking the Said animal only few miles back--Aug. 28 of 1849—

L Robidoux
E Callahan

This certifies that I have had stolen from my Rancho at Juopo thre[e] mares and six tame horses within less than three weeks.

Aug 28. 1849.

This certifies that I have had stolen from the Rancho del Juopo two mules and two tame mares

Aug. 28. 1849. E Callahan

[p. 5]

Samuel Kelly Is on his way to California with Wagon & 3 Yoke of Oxen |Entered by John P. Hoyt Rancho Del Chino

Aug 21|49

The Santa Fe “Bohoys” passed this place on August 27. 1849- Crossed the Colorado August 12 with no loss whatever all fat ragged and saucy.

Aug. Williams Mo.	G W Coulter Pa (Santafee)
J. P. Humphrey	Y H Massie Mo.
Geo. A. Poor Pa.	Scott Burr from [] Santafee
John I Fox	

Left Harrodsburg Ky on the 27th of Feb “|49 to go to Cal. by the way of Ft. Smith Left Little River Apr 17th reached

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Santa Fee in about 30 days via Canadian River joined Capt Days party at Santa Fee arrived here on the 27 of Aug

Wm F. Shaw) Steuben Maine
H. P. True) Harrodsburg, Ky
Theo C. Dean) " "
Robt. Godfrey) " "
August 28. Tuesday.

Neil McCahon	Richland Miss
Jas. Bell	Holmes Co. "
F. Davis	" "
W. Griggsby	" "
I Wallace	" "
A. Pope	" "
G. Cousert	" "
R Cousert	" "
A Porter	" "

Left Feb. 17. Crossed the Rio Grande July 1.-at El Passo

Dr. I. R. Parton Montgomery Co Mo. Started from Santo Fe
C. W. Hay -Galliopolis Ohio & come by Kearneys route
Charleston

A. A. Watson Kenahwa Co Va
I.M. Stuart Jackson Co Miss
Capt. Campbell " "
Wright " "

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September 2, 1849. Sunday

J. M. Steddum Sabine Co. Texas
Left home 14 April Crossed the Rio Grande at Don Anna 100
above El passo July 12.

F. E. Stiddum " "
I. L. Morrison " "
T. McMaster " "
J. D. Abett Houston "
T. N. Hogan " "
A. S. Rousavill Shrevesport La

RECORD BOOK OF THE RANCHO DEL CHINO

M. W. Ferrell Corpus Christi Texas
Thomas Davis Camaigo Mexico

E. A. Baldwin Baldwins Villa Onondaga Co. N Y — Packed on mules at Von Bunn Ark Came across Desert to San Miguil without meeting any Indians of encountering any serious difficulty Near San Myguil had two mules Stolen From San Myguil to Albicirqui by New Plain at which place had out other mule stolen Kindly received & our wants promptly supplied by the Millitary Station At Socoru received like kind treatment of the Millitary Station took Col Kearneys rout as described by Mr Emery passed down the Gila to the Colorado had no difficulty with the indians though we fell in with one marauding party of 50 from Sonort who had some 50 or 60 animals Mules horses & cattle as booty At the Colorado we ware bady treated by the Umas by Stealing our property and taxing Exhorbitant prices for ferrying A Millitary post should be at once Established at the Crossing for the protection of the Emigration No difficulties from the Colorado to this place Except Some want of provisions ——————

Sept 3d 1849. J. W. Maxwell home at Kaskaskia Illinois and am bound for California

A. M. king of the Texas Rangers was killed the other day by the Apaches. He belonged to Major Chevalies Company of Texan Emigrants

[p. 7]

Sept. 2. 1849 —

The undersigned part of the Texas Company passed here this day in good heath and spirits on their way to Sacramento — Kindly treated by Mr. Williams —

R. L. Weir — Bragoria, Texas
J. B. Camp Grimes C—T—
Henry Hoyt opelousas La
A S Tixson Ct of Navaro [Tex]

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Allen Williams Cty of Navarro [Tex]
Sims Loyd, Leon C. Texas
Robt Hunter, Leon Co. Texas

The Albany Co. N. Y. arrived here September 2d 1849.
Composed of the following individuals — Left New York 23
Mch.

Fred R. Townsend
J. D. McKown
J. W. Thorne Brooklyn N. Y.
J. S. Van Ingen, Albany "
John Hammond C Point "
Robt Eliot Brooklyn "
O. B. Oakley N. Y.

Left N. Y. 23 March Edgar Seabury Albany

The undersigned arrived here 2d Sept. and were much gratified at meeting with an inhabitant of the country who speaks the English Language
Left Florida 1st Feby.

Jno. O. Wheeler
O. Morgan

Sept 2d 1849
John Augst Ebbets of New York (care of Ward & Smith (San Francisco
John Murphy — do

[p. 8] Sept 2nd 1849

Francis C. Baker or Jefferson Cass County Texas

Thomas T. Baker " " " "

3rd

F. Myers — of Rapides Parish State of Louisiana

W. Coltrin do " " " " "

J. L. Samson M. D. Dallas, Texas

RECORD BOOK OF THE RANCHO DEL CHINO

arrived at this place the 3th of Sept 1849
E. H. Paxton Dallas Texas

Monday Sept 3.

Arrived at the Ranch a Mexican upon a mare with Col Williams Ranch upon it ant not *rented*. Took the animal from said Mexican.

D S Terry Houston Texas
W J Kyle Brazona Co Texas
P. B. Dixon Madison County Mississippi
please write to me at Los Angeles

Wednesday Sept. 5

F. G. Roberts Texas
S. Griffith N York
J. H. Bogert "
Jas Baker "
Jas Hutchenson "
D. M. Love Alabama
R. K. Love " Benton Co.
Wm T. Holman Arkansas
Hobson "
do "
Hoit Texas
Wilson "
Rupell "
Wm Moore New York
" Byers "

Thursday Sep 6.

George Derrick New York
John Jones Jr. "
C. M. Blair Richmond Va
" Patterson Fayette Co Ky.
John Miller Richmond
C. M. Wallace " "
Stephen Hyde New York
Jesse Brush " "
Wm. Canfield " "

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A W Drouillard La Grange Fayette Co Texas
Elijah McClure " "

The above have been five or Six months on the trip—
Crossed

Major Chevalie killed 21 Apaches, this side of Chihuaha A party in which Col Peters belonged to had 9 men killed by the Apaches

W. H. Bradford	Jefferson Co Arkansas
George Thomas	Arkansaw Nation. A Chicksaw
P. W. Gaines	Covington, Ky.
David Jo Hopper	Green Ala
Jno C Stanley	Georgia
John Hopper	Green Ala
J. J. Bush	" Co. All
R. D. Smith	Mario Co Ala
Wm I. Munroe	Jefferson Co Ark. of Dr. Tuckers Co.
Dr Tucker	" "
Jas Howey	" "
Capt. Brown	Louisiana of the Concord association
Mr. Campbell	"
Coyle	"
Conner	"
Long	"
Capt Garrett	Kentucky
Mr Boone	"
Stanley	"

A company of about 50 waggons with families are now on their way from Fort Smith escorted by Capt Marcy with about 50 Dragoons.

A. F. Unger.	Buffalo. N. Y.
Geo L Bannard	Boston Massachusetts
John L Sweet	New York City Sept 8th
Henry B Lyman	New York City fr Bk Norrum Beaga to the Brazos.
Silas Philfer	Louisiana

RECORD BOOK OF THE RANCHO DEL CHINO

William J. Smith — Marshall Co — Miss
arrived here Sep. 6th 1849
Wesley Millard Mobile Ala

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John W. Jackson	Vernon Ala	Sept 7 49
A B Conger	Clinton Miss	" "

Arrived here on the 7th of Sept left ft Smith on the 10th of Apr. Arrived at Santafee on the 8th of June left Santafee 13th and arrived at the Pijmo Villege on the 1th day of augst left on the 15th and arrived at the Colerado on 27th and left on the 28th 1849 and crossed the desert without any difficulty

6 men were killed on the other side of the Colerado in coming down the Gila, about a month since. Not known whether they were Mexicans or Americans.

W G Barnfield	Tuscaloosa	Ala
Jas Mitchell	Varnon	"
Joseph P. Davis	Louisiana	
E. Mitchael	Vernin	Ala
Lewis Capender	Clinton	Miss
Thomas L. Gronberry	"	"
Thomas H. Clark	"	"
Isaac Hobbs	Lanford	Me.

Saturday Sep 8

James Shield	Webb Co	Texas	The Miss & Alabama
Warren Raymond	"	"	Emigrating Company
Jas. A. Neill	Noxubee Co	Miss	
Wm Neill	"	"	left Fort Smith
Aug Jones	"	"	April 10. Left Santa Fe
Benj. Moore	"	"	June 7. Come down
Jas. Randalls	"	"	the Ric Grande to
Robt Pruitt	Sumpter Co	Ala	Linita and struck
Green Pruitt	"	"	down the Gila
R. C. Boyd	Green Co	Ala	

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

B. R. Bell	Noxumbie Co Miss	Capt of the
H. Steele	Sumpter Co Ala	party
Geo Armstrong	" "	"
Wm Boykin	" "	"
Henry Ball	" "	"
F Ferguson	Green Co	"
J. E. Ferguson	" "	"
G. H. Wilder	" "	"
M. N. Moran	Noxubie Co Miss	
W. C. H. Kosser	Tuscaloosa Ala	
D. R. Cain	Baton Rouge La	

[p. 11]

Capt Merchison was killed accidentally about 100 miles the other side of Santa Cruz July 28. He was from La Grange Fayette Co. Texas and commanded a company of 37 men.—Three days after died in the same company a Mr. Wait from Pennsylvania

James H P Smith arrived here om the onie the Sixth of September and remained untill the eighth got comsiddeable rested obtained fresh Mules from Mr Williams he treated me very gemtlemantly. I was born in Bedford County, Tennessee, and have been living in Texas from thirty three up to the present, To the Fayette County Company my health was bad coming threww the Desert I had mo opportunity of writing you in the desert and had mo mews that would of been of any importance to you I exspect to go from here to my uncles in a boute twenty days. Mr Williams will give you more infrommation that I am able to do don't be discoraged boys Mr Cameron take good care of Duncan Accept my beste love all of you

James H J Smith

F A Milus
Thorm
Skinner
and others

RECORD BOOK OF THE RANCHO DEL CHINO

I suppose they are about the crossing
of the Colorado all from western Texas

James H J Smith

[about two inches torn from the bottom of page]

[p. 12]

John Merchisom

The commander of the Fayette Co Orgamized May the first
eigh teen hundred and forty which he had conducted to the
entire satis faction of all. Satardy á8 July & 1849 he was
unfortumately Shot by the discharge of his own gum he was
a worthy member of the methodist Church and a good free
mason

James H J Smith

Arrived at this place sept 10. 1849 And sold my waggons &
mules to Mr Williams And intend taking water passage from
sanpidro Also lef a clay bank Mare in his charge

Jeremiah Bean

W Elliott

Lewis Herston

Mr Kennard

W A Rowland

Thomas Harper

B ien T. Gray

William Lee Rowland Sept the 11 1849

from Union County Arkansas

Robt Fletcher Polk Co Texas Sept 10th 1849

H. P. Jones Cooks Route

J. C. Roburn

Navarro County Texas

Sept 13th 1849 Sold Mr. Williams My Dun Colored Mule

[about two inches torn from bottom of page]

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

[p. 13]

Thomas E. Fletcher	Rockingham Co	Va	Left Fort Smith
R. Rhodes	"	"	Apr 14. -Passed
P. P. Rhodes	"	"	thrgh San Miguel
John L. Higgins	"	"	& Santa Fe
Patrick Kelly	"	"	Came on Cooks
Gohiel I. Hiti	"	"	route.
Gustavus Hiti	Augusta	" "	
Wm Carson	"	"	[in pencil]
Michael Kerrikofe	"	"	Rockingham
John Showwalters	"	"	(Jakes')
Daniel Skille	"	"	
Mirtin Magingoe	"	"	
	A. H. Samuels		
	Wm. F. Samuels		
Peter Finck	Chatam St.	"	

Sept 11th 1849 I arrived here on the 9th inst and have partaken of Col. I Williams hospitality until the present time To day I leave for Pueblo there to seek for business in order to take me in to the mines

Wm Millard
Of Mobile Ala

2nd Division Carson Association

H H Brower	Galveston	Texas
Agur Pixley	Portchester	N Y
Wm Clements	N J	
Francis Kinchbeck	"	

G. Gustin Trenton N.J.

Wm Stymets Ross Sunday Sept 9 New York

W W Wyckoff Staying here at the Mill

Thursday, Sep 13

Edmund P. Gains Sabine Co Texas

John B. Gains " " "

Samuel Stone Austin "

RECORD BOOK OF THE RANCHO DEL CHINO

Philip Crawford	Sabine Co	"
E. M. Koker	San Augustine Co	"
Thomas Stone	Austin	"
James W. Laird	"	"
D. French	"	"
Willis —	"	"
Lewis Jones	"	"
John Fockes	"	"
I. F. A. Marr	Pickins C.	Alabama

[p. 14]

John C. Hyde	September 13th
Wm A Polk	Eastern Pennsylvania
Alexander H. Reed	New York

We arrived here this morning and I think we will leave in the morning for the city of the Angels. & maybe so go by water from there. We have had hard times but not as bad a[s] I had anticipated. We pass the Colorado without any loss. So far we have done much better than could habe been expected. Come on Boys good things are ahead from all accounts.

Sept 13th 1849

R H Hill Goliad Texas	[names evidently first placed here, then marked out and placed to the left]
W J Pollard Miss	
Dr J C Ogburn Texas	
Wm H. Lott Miss	

We sold our animals here to Mr Williams and intend to take water passage from Pueblo Los Angelos we leave in the morning Sept 14th 1849 Wm H Lott

Sept 14th 1849—The Tuscarawas County Ohio party consisting of 5 persons vis Geo. N. Allen. John Shaffer John Witton, Joseph Norris and Westley Hiltabiddle with waggon and ox teams—all doing well

Some eight or ten of us left this morning for the coast to go by water. Success to the boys that are behind.

Sept 14th 1849. B H Hill

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

[p. 15]

E OBrion arrived here from Sanantonio Tex on the 16th Sept 1849 Left Sanantonio 27th Ap 49 remain here 5 days to recruit on animels we have had no dificulty on the rout but badly in sulted by the uman Indiaans at the colorado river but our party was too small to show resent ment and we were very friendly

Jas. M. Buswell Arrived here from New York Sept, 16th D Sweet and Henry B Lyman of New York

Rancho Del Chino
Sep 16th 1849.

A M Browning, G W. B. Evans, Jacob Teats, F Laubenheimer, E Bruner, A. T. Parker Dr L H. Bunnell, P S. Kelly Jas Lott. arrived at this Ranch yesterday in good health, and met with kind and gentlemanly attention from Col. Isaac Williams, who extended to us the hospitalities of his ranch. One & a half miles from his dwellings we found an abundance of wild oats & clover, and our mules being fatigued & hungry, we concluded to remain here one week and recruit; in order that we may be able to pass on comfortably. We found the Indians quite trouble some on the colorado

Sept 17 1849

W. Bardin Thomas E Dawson. S. Bardin J T. Bardin Henry Mundell Robt. Davis Charley Gross. Lewis Frater F Martell from La Grange Texas arrived at Rancho Del Chino Had no difficulty except at the Colorado where the Umah Indians stole our knives &c (etc) We have all enjoyed good health—and have been well provided with provisions all the way

Joseph, P, Ring. Isaiah Courtenay. R. H. Balou D. H. Geiger arrived at Chino last Friday 14inst. left Fort Smith April 10th—have had good luck all the way—and had the fortune to arrive sooner than any other ox team Have all been very healthy & had plenty to eat & drink all the way.

RECORD BOOK OF THE RANCHO DEL CHINO

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S. W. Oleham Arrived here on the 15th Sept well and in good spirits Left Bonam Texas on 5th Aprl. 1849. met with no Dificulty's on the way

C. C. Cushman. S. P. Stanifur -- Firsbang and Aneas B Gordan arrived here on the 14th September 1849 all in good health and spirits from the City of Austin. Texas--

'Cherokee Nation'

Josiah F. Fields arrived at this place on the 17th of September in good health and cheer.

Josiah F. Fields

W C Winston and A Stewart passed here 17 Sep. enroute to the city of angels

J Earl of Eutaw Ala for Calafornia

Wm. S. Cunnyneham of Parhoille Tenn Arvd Hea Sept 17 1849

Rancho del Chino H. M. Nimmo

September 19th|49

Thirteen of the original Cass County Company here on the 17th inst. We lost 15 horses & mules on the Colorado

H M Nimmo

R. W. Nevins from New York arrived here on the 15th|49 had 1 Mule & 1 Horse Stolen by the Indians hat Swam them acrost the Colorado—

[]¹⁰

David Rader of Jefferson Cass County Texas

T. M. Bridges of Daingerfield Titas Cty Texas

[p. 17]

David Wm. Mock of Texas arrived here 15" Sept 1849

A McNeal " " " " " "

Joseph A. Allen " " " "

M. C. Pleasants " " " "

Wm Murray " " " "

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Homer Hubbz	Arived Sept 15th, 1849	N Y
Alfred E Twaddell	and will leave here the 19 of the same month	N Y
John Shores	Texas	
Jessy graham	Texas	
Ruben Chandler	Texas	

Isom Palmer
Dr. I. C. Black
A. W. Moris
N. Black
Jacob Sensaboy

Arive at the Rancho Delchino or Williams Ranch on the 15th Sept 1849 all in good helth will leave hear for the Minds on the 23th. the 5 Persons ar all from Walker Co. Texas.

B. F. Workman arrived here the 17th. September 1849 From Chihuahua Mex. here we have lost but fiew animals In short have seen but little difficulty exect crossing the desert & down the Gila; then we suffered for food for our animals our company or party has no particular name we started from Chihuahua with Ward & Watson but left them at the Guaduloup pass Maj Chivalier & 3 other Texans some or 10 Ohioans among them Dr Bunell Evens, Lobenhammer &c. The res t of us from Miss. La & Alabama Sept 23rd.

Samuel L. Kelly got here 19 of September 1849, home in Tennessee Rutherford County

David Little arived hear the 19th of Sept 1849 Residence Sparta White County Tennessee

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California Rancho Del Chino

J. B. Cameron conductor of the Lagrange company arived here on the 18th of Sept. 1849 with three wagons & thirteen men I regret to mention the death of Capt. John Murchison, one

RECORD BOOK OF THE RANCHO DEL CHINO

hundred & fifty miles west of the Reor Grand on the 27th day
of July presisley at 12 oclock he was axidancheley Shot by the
discharg of his on gun being in the act of leeding his horse
under the Swinging lime of a tree his gun being Swong in a
Strap on the horn of the Sadle a well known custom of caring
guns Som of the lime raking back the brich & lock throwing
forward the musell in which position She was dischardg the
ball entring a little under the right Sholder blade and coming
out a little a bove the left brest he fell & expired instonstan-
iousley with out a Strugal or the utrance of one Singal word
he has lived respected and died regreted

P Kahlke N York City arrived here on the 18th of Septbr,
sold animals and left for the coast to take shipping to San
Francisco on the 24th day of Septbr 49

James T. Stuart Washington Hemsted Cty Arks — —
W. M. Stuart & Samuel H. Stuart of Arks Hempstead Cty
Washington arrived here on the 18 September 49| — — —

Mr R. F. Sullivan

W. M. Stuart

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George Nuttall & C Black arrived hear on th 24 of September
in company with Cabs Miss all were well & had got so far
with out loosing any of there stock

L Black

Francis W Tall
Evan Jenkins

G. W. Pool
James P. Graham & Steven Fosdick

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sept 24th |49

John Spears Clarksville .Ark.

September 28th 1849

M. P. Pool & E. M. Richardson Fort Smith Ark.

[]ⁿ

Gotfried Smith G. E. Boom William Shulemeyer Chas Vogst
S. P. Birt & B H Grovar. of the La Grange Company from
Fayette County Texas, arrived at this Rancho on Tuesday 25th
September 1849 — with packs; Having sold their wagon at
Agues Calientes, rested until the 30th on the wild oats & then
proceeded to Pueblo de los Angeles

R. A. Latimer Clarksville Arkansas arrived Here on the 29th
A D 1849 William Collier Clarksville Arkansas arrived here 29
J. B. Tunis Dardinelle Arkansas arrived on the 29 Sept A.D.
1849 I advise the Citizens of the U. S. not to take their families
this route for this reason it it to dangerous a one

G. W| Pool

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Sept. 29th |49

Jas. E. Gardner Lamar co., Texas

D. G. Gardne r do do do

S. G. Brownfield Little Rock, Arks

Sep 29th 49

W. E. Garraty St Genevive Missouri

J W Clark Little Rock Ark Sept. 29 1849

29th Sept. 1849

R. F. Sullivan of Washington Arkansas

James L. Fort do — — — do

James A. Davis do — — — do

H P Dorsey De Soto County Miss. Sept. 29th 1849

Mr. John A. Lyle 29th Sept 1849

D Sir

We arrived here to day our mules are in bad
plight and I think you had better sell your mules here and take

RECORD BOOK OF THE RANCHO DEL CHINO

water we would wait for you, but for the uncertainty of your coming this way

R. F. Sullivan

For Capt. B ————— of Miss Sept 30, '49
I head of you at [] and [] since, I had some difficulty in getting my wagon to the Colorado I left it there and packed, two men was bringing it over I shall leave here tomorrow will take the next boat beyond. First to Dr. Los Angeles I expect to be in the Gold regions by the 15 Oct. success to you I have not heard anything from DeSoto since I left I am anxious to leave

A. M. Beatie Fayetteville Lincoln Cty Tenn Sept 30the 1849

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George Hickey of Johnson Co Arkansas was shot on the Gila about 170 miles by order of a Court Martial of the Clarksville company to which he had belonged. He had stabbed a young man of the same company.

Aug 30. Aug 30.

Rev. I. M. Allen of New York died, in the Hornado this side of the Pimon village and was buried on the banks of the Gila about 8 miles this side of the western extremity of the Hornada.

Henry Murphy of Yell Co Arkansas died on the Horhado this side of the Pimon village Aug 30, and was buried on the Gila

John W Hall arrived at this place on the 1st of October
G W Scott from Texas - Harris County
G W Adams
Samul Arnold.

New York

David Elting 11
Wm Michell Texas

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Thomas Brasdell
Oct. 2 1849.

all of one Mess

W. A. Green & G. W. Farris from Tennessee
arrived here Oct 2nd 49

J. A. Jackson
Wm E. Stone
A. E. Gibson
D. M. Humphry
J. S. Franklin
Andrew Barty

Arrivd here on the 30th of Sept. |49 Sold out and left to day to
take shiping all well and in fine health Success to the
Washington Company — Oct. 2nd 1849

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Rancho del Chino Oct 1st 1849
S. D. Ball Arrived here last night — Went about
 two miles into the mountains to Camp -
J. W. Ballard Grazing very good - Plenty of *clover*
 &*wild oats* All well - Left Ward &
H M. Ballard Watson with the wagons at the Colorado
on the 17th ultimo Leave Oct 3d San Augustine Texas Design
Selling out at the City of the Angels & going by water

Sold to Williams & leave for los Angelos this
morning Oct 4 |49
Ball

Washington Co.
A. E. Gibson Panola Miss Septr 3" 1849

David Humphreys
Hartford Conn
Sept 30|49

RECORD BOOK OF THE RANCHO DEL CHINO

Oct 3rd Leave for San Pedro
To Take Shipping

A. D. Wilson of Fort Gibson
A. M. Wilson Cherokee Nation
Dr. G. W. Wilson arrived here Oct. 3rd - 1849

S. B. Cordery Destination
Thos. Scott San Francisco
Oct. 3rd 1849

David Lee of Cass Co. Texas. Left 8 horses all well
Na Samson from Sevier Co Ark

T N Wright October 3rd 1849
G A Janker _____ 1849

Thomas May of Louisiana oct 3-1849
J. L. Matthews of Catahoule

October 3 | 49 Of one mess
Jas F. Jenkins Kemper Cty Miss
J Bilant
Th. Suykens Belgique

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R N Slack — Ky
A. P. Crittenden arrived Oct 2nd
James Y. Gardner
David Swann
E. L. Hodkins Louisiana
Parish

H P Dorsey left 5th Oct. 1849. from Miss. for California
October 4. 1849.

Geo B. King Little Rock Arkansas Oct 4—1849
Geo. H. Bentley Lewisburg Arks Act 4—1849
David L. Gwynn Do
Thomas Hooper Do

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

all five of Capt Williams company of Fort Smith Arkansas six months and three days out all well.

George W. Harp October 4th 1849
Isaac Harrison OC the 4 1849
William Harrison OC the 4th 49.

Samuel Kelly New York
L A. Whitmora Athens Co Ohio ox team
Arrived Oct 4, 1849 Stephen Lester

W. McCune of N. York, & E. Texas;
&

E. Eggeling, of Cincinnati. O.

Arrived Oct. 4, in good health & spirits: sold out to emigrants, & leave on the 6th. for S Francisco, via San Pedro.

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John Bralley of Scott county Arkansas
Henry J. Bidleman of New Jersey
George Washington Pool - of Arkansas Franklin County,
Charlestown
James W. Penrose Little Rock Ark
H Haralson
James Pearce of Little Rock "
We arrived here on the 8th of Octo 1849
Nathaniel Eaton
Thomas Hucheson Left here of the 12th of Oct 1849
Torn some sick Sold out our team & Waggon to Col Williams
William B Hammond of Scott County Arkansas
Elliridge. T. Rector from Guadalupe County Tevas Oct 1849
J W Sims Clarkesville Texas Oct 12th 1849
G. B. Abee Clarkesville Oct 12th 1849
Josiah S Monroe New York City
John. L. Smith Lake Providence Ga Oct 12
Thomas. Vandevarden Sn antonio

RECORD BOOK OF THE RANCHO DEL CHINO

Charles. L. Gilpin. Donaldsonville La Oct 12th 1849
W. N. W. Joyce. Capten Ark. Do " "

Thomas Newman Buffalo Oct 10th

Oct 14th Geo. R. Shmaltaz. New York City

Recently from the Gold Mines, Reports, that gold cand be obtained, as plentiful as ever, provided the labor be employed
For Sonoro Mex.

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Mouth of Rio Gila Sep 6, 1849

Ourselves and party of seven men arrived here yestarday morning

H B. Davis Passed 18th Oct

Lost 2 Horses at Timacula one a bright sorrell 6 years old Star in his fore Head a scar on his right sholder Supposed to be burned Lond boddy & fine hare & The other a bay 17 years old star in his forehead Saddle mark no brands heavy made Short boddy Steep, rump

R. W Pettus passed Oct 18 49

Sevier Co Arks

John. M. M. Kamy Oct 18th 1849

Geo Counts of Clinton Arks arrived hear Oct 16th 1849 in Good health.

John F Hutchingson Saline Co Ark

Arived here october 15 1849

Leonard Vandegrift arived hear oct. 15th 1849

Saml P. Griggs of Clinton Arks Arived Hear oct 16th in good Health

Wm Cagle of Pope County arived Hear oct 16th in Good Helth

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John Bralley of Arkansas Scott county arrived here the 9th Day of october AD 1849

arrived James Jones

A. H. Webb. I. Logan S. H. Cooper & N. Forbes -

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

arrived at this place on the 8th of Oct 1849. Forbes Remained with Col Williams.

And Webb Logan and Cooper left here on the 11th for Sanpedro - Jonathan Logan arrived here Oct 8th|49 Left for Pueblo oct. 11th|49

Jos. J Simmons arrived here on the 10th day of October, alls well, Sold out to Col. Williams takes Shipping at Saint Peters -

Oct 11th 1849 ---

William M. Jones. September 11 - 1849

Arrived at Rancho Chino 11th Oct. ---

Peter G Funk from Point no Point Maine

Oct. 11th 1849.

Left by Doct. Eaton a large Bay Horse to be recruited.----
N. Howard

Wm. C. H. Webb Little Rock Ark Passed here Oct 17th
1849

Calvin Dunahoe Saline Co
Ark Oct 17

Philo Howell -- Little Rock - 1849

Johnson J Joyner Little Rock
Ark 1849

Wm Lockridge arrived here Oct 20th 1849

arrived James Jones -- Met with no trouble on the road

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A. W. Searcy Jackson Ten

J. S. Hankins October 21

Jas. W. Ballard Sommerville Tennessee

The Remnant of the Washington Company composed of six Waggons and Twenty five men arrived here on the 18th October 1849—This Co left Fort Smith about the 14th April—consisting of 32 Waggons and 110 men. Two of the Co—one a negro—the other (Oliver Linseiick of Ark) died on the route.

RECORD Book OF THE RANCHO DEL CHINO

the latter losing his life at Warner's Camp the 12th of October.
The Co will disband at this place.

Dr. Charles . R Cullen of Richmond Virginia arrived here on the 18th Oct 1849—in good health , and intends remaining in Pueblo during the coming winter. At the Colorado the Umah Indians stole both of his horses—On the same day they killed a Dutchman—(name unknown). Dr. Charles R Cullin

Chino Rancho Ca:
Oct. 25: 1849

Hughes. _____ arrived on the 27th Oct 1849. Capt of a Company

Thomas Coleman and 2 brothers from K. Y.
Left here on the 27th inst.

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Daniel Kitchings — Texas
William Lamb — Do
Hon. I. M. Hoge of Washington County Arks:
arrived on the 27th Oct 1849. Capt of a company
of 130 men via the Great Salt Lake

Sept.27.	James Logan	of Clarksville Arks —
	David Logan	arrived on the 26. 1849
	Thomas G Hackney	
	Jacob Rogers	
Sept 28.	Jno F N Jones	Hannibal Mo.
	Samuel Cross	" "
	Dr H Merideth	" "
	Chs Merideth	" "
	D S Tisdale	" "
	A Woods	" "

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Jos M Davis	"
Wm Davis	"
R Robinson	"
Henry Sarvis	"
Wm H C Nash	"
Wm C Coffman	"
Jno McKee	"
Jno Henry McKee	"
E H Townsend	"
Wm Marsh	"

By way of Santa Fe N M and Salt Lake all well and calculate
to Bitten. we will leave here on the 5th Inst. for the gold
regions we are now in good health —

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L J C Duncan Ga.

D Seymour Beach of Litchfield Ct arrived Oct 27th.
1849—

Carbine 1141 left here 29th Oct . . 1849 bound for the Sacramento via Los Angeles with but little prospect of getting any where

C. Mitchell

R. R. Givens arrived here Oct. 28th. broke

October 29 | 49

Jams Waters arvd from the Grate Salt Lake with a party 1.14 men all [] to the Cheano in good helth with loss of abot 30 Muls for wat of water and grass

Perry B. Marple, native of Virginia, and late from Missouri, arrived here, Oct. 29 1849, en route to the Gold mines of the West Let fortune favor those who undergo all the hardships of the enterprise, & hope will attend him the residue of the expedition.

The members of Capt. Hayes Company from Hannibal Missouri have enjoyed fine health the entire trip. The company lost but a small quantity of stock considering the number of dry stretches in we had to encounter—we had one Jornada of

RECORD BOOK OF THE RANCHO DEL CHINO

fifty miles one of seventy five without water that was fit to fifty miles one of seventy five without any water that was fit to use and several small Jornados without wood Water grass

Jno. F. W. Jones

Hannibal Marion County missouri

Capt Bonlin

Roberts &

others come on in will wait for you in the promise Land

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J. G. Johnson of Washington arks

R. L. Philips " " "

R. L. Williams " " "

W. Williams " " "

arrived here November 2nd 1849 departed Nov 1849 will take water at San Pedro

Edward Wiliams Haughton Little Rock Arks.

Arrived abrother of hisn lives just across the mash

November 7 1849

arrived here from Harris Couty Texas, Lewis B. Harris & lady.

Cors. Cox A. E. Savearingen. E. H. Elkins

we left Fredericksburg Texas May 16. Coming direct to Paso del Norte without meeting any obstruction to our waggons we came up 20 miles above Donna Anna and crossed the Rio Grande and Struck Cooks waggon road. we have brought every animal thru in good condition with which we started. we remained on the Rio Grande six weeks. —

R E Scott Martin E Oldham

S M Tuttle F M Lowrie November 8|49

Joseph B Dulany Henry R Mason

James C Davis Nov 8th |49

the above Seven is from Misouri S

Wiliam S Norment of columbia, S,C

November 9th 49

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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James W Mitchell
J. James, E, Brasfield Nov 8th 1849
Wm, E Brasfield
Jacb C, Robinson
H, C, Everett
Weston. J. Everett
Benjamin. R. Everett
Joseph Elliott
E. H. Elkins Nov the 5th
Nov 9th 1849 William M. Matines from Mo
Formerly of Kentucky
Harrison Minta Left Mo May 14th 1849
W. Mat. .

Reuben Stewart.

Samuel Thing of Missouri

John Curtis Passt Nov the 12th 1849

B. F. Bradford Louisiana Novem 12 1849

Arrived here November 12th 1849 Mr A C Hill from
Sullivan County. town of Milan Mo Came from Independence
To Santa Fe & thence by the Gila.

hat[h]

He that ears to hear

Novbr 14th 1849

Wm G Evans Houston Texas

Montgomery B Shackelford Greysen Count Texas

Floyd Magruder

Arkansas

J E Pelham

W B Searcy

arrived Nov. 10th

James Searcy

1849

departed Nov 15th

John Stone

Wm Hughes

Chira Peters who lost his fiddle

RECORD BOOK OF THE RANCHO DEL CHINO

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John McKeon Memphis Tenn Sanfrancisco
Geo. A. Sturges San Antonio Texas Nov 15th 1849
Tho. Sun. Hotchkiss Shreveport Louisiana
 Alex Gwinn Jeweler N York
 Wm B Massey Memphis Tennessee
J. C. Stevenson Little Rock Arkansas arrived at this place
Nov 16th 1849
Alfred Johnson New Market (Ala)
Wm M Daniel of Dalmyra Mo

November 29 1849

Arived from Poway on the 16th December
Nicholas conrod , Nicholas chance
Henry Harlies Daniel Ingorsol
We are in a destitute condition feel greatful to Mr Williams
for the assistance consisting of 6 alluenas. — And Beaf
pumpkins & c to the amount of 8 dollars.

Jan 12th 1850 General Badger took Chittys Blackstone to Los
Angeles

" 26th " Strayed from Miles and Emigrant at the Mission
a Blue Mare Mule High Weathers. Hump Back — crooked
hind legs Branded thus

Feb 8 1850 H. C. Skinner has left a small American Red and
Whit Cow. 5 or 6 years Old — lined back Some White on the
belly flanks and hind legs Small Horns Carries her Tail on
one sid and a slight Brand of the letter H, on the left Thigh
which may not now be perceivable

Feb 8th 1850.

Arived at this place we four
in order to be advised what measure we should
adopt to obtain a mule Which was forcibly taken from us at
the Laggon by some robbers. Col. Williams advised us to go
Los Angeles inform the Alcalda and get authority to recover
our mule and if n

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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February 3d 1850

Allen Conrey	of New York
Isaac Thompson	Do
T. W. T. Young	Do
Edmund Jones	Do
J L Watson	" Do
O. Seeligson	" Galveston Texas
A F Leovy	" New Orleans

A portion of the Fremont Association of New York. our provisions gave out at the Rio Colorado was Obliged to eat dead Carcasses of oxen. was met on the desert by a party from St Deigo who supplied us with 4 days ration of pork and flour.

Feby 23rd 1850 The Salt Spring or Margose Mining Co. left this day in fine spirits with a complete outfit for operating in those mines, May success attend Them, I fear much they will come backe with their lips hanging at least a *feet*.—

Feby 26, Mess No 1. Fremont Association Consisting of Messrs Leroy. Thompson Young Watson & Seeligson left "Col Williams Rancho" this day with no high or extravagant expectations of any speedy fortune. In the event of failure they wil incur no disappointment—They will regard the expedition as they now regard it, as only an experiment.—The above Company is destined for the "Salt Lake Mines"

Napier Lothian and Son from New York City arrived Feby 24th 1850 —————

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"Rancho Del Chino" Dec 24 1849 I arrived at this place found it pleasant "Gold Hunters" plenty from every State in the Union

Discription of Louderwassirs Oxen sold to Davis one large red sided white lined backe, and white face american ox one large brindle american ox - some wear on his near horn —

Dr McCormick & Co left this day for the north all well and in fine spirits March 8th 1850

RECORD BOOK OF THE RANCHO DEL CHINO

Oct 18th 1849

Strayed on the Rancho Del Chino two American Oxen. One is a white ox - thick set short back - short legs - and short horns prettily curved over the head - His head is black - intermingled with small white spots - The same may be said of the color of his back - *Duke* is his name.

The other ox is of a black & white color the black portion somewhat resembling the shape of a saddle. Said ox is spare built - has long horns - and from having had a diseased foot foot - said foot is larger than the other foot. *Ben* is the ox's name

Both are tame and good working oxen.

Charles. R Cullen

This is to Certify that I resign all claims in my horse to Col Williams of the following description Sorrell with white face white left fore foot Spanish Mark on left hip cropped main with a hide lariat around his neck

Ranche Del China

Allen Conrey

March 25 1850.

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the

Rancho del Chino March 26 1850

One Brown mule Brand with a double OD which was Left in a mistake and another Brown mule taken in the Place of it Belonging to Mr. Williams

Both nostirls Split

Richard Dunham

about three quarter of an inch Witness

Robt Clift

General Alexander Anderson of Tennessee

Knoxville East Tennessee

My Present address will be. San Francisco.

This address is given to Col Isaac Williams of California — and I shall be specially happy that he will call upon me at any time, *under any circumstances*

My Company is composed of 22 effective men —

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

well armed — well disciplined — capable of any service-

This East Tennessee Gold Mining Company has passed to this place without one day of suffering — with the loss of but a single mule & a horse

I have halted with Cal Williams a few hours — He has treated me with great hospitality, & made me a present of a fine Pony — Col Williams is a self - made man, & intitled to the confidence of every American

A Anderson

April th18 1850

[p. 36]

I crossed about the the first of this month. I have seen a dead body about two league below Fery, occupied by Capt Glanton, and his party Since I came on the road I heard that there was another man shot throug the back and was floating down the river this I did not see, but heard so. Also of a another villian by the name of Thomas Cantrel, who murdered Mr Anderson and burnt him and also his three servants with him, Also stoled five thousand dollars, this Louis Rubedoue can certify to the young man that committed these deeds

Andrew Andreson

Rancho Del Chino. April 23rd 1850

Discription of Two oxen, Five Years old each one. mostly red with some white motley spots, the left horn broke off half way down. and branded with a figer (2) on the hip & Sholder, —

The other a Black. of a medium size. with Stag horns. the ears split in two or three places, and without a Brand,

J. R. Davis

arrived at Rancho Del Chino 22nd October 1849, from Creek Nation Arks.

J. R. Davis
William Cates
Leroy Jobe

RECORD BOOK OF THE RANCHO DEL CHINO

The former in good health. the two latter in most pitiful situation. was taken in by Col. Williams. Sheltered and provided for.

J. R. Davis

Left Rancho Del Chino Aprial 23rd 1850 bound for San Josas from Thence to Stocton seeking for Gold

J. R. Davis

and William Cate

[p. 37]

May 23rd 1850

one red American ox Ironed with The Iron of The Rancho del Chino not knowing who he belongs to

Julian Williams

The Indians at the Colorado Carters to Be Hostil Robm Mor or Liss from all Partis that passe Make their bost of Cillin 23 Mexicans

Passed [] the 5th June. C. H. Veeder and family

Joseph Bryan &

John Lot Jun 5 1850

May 29th 1850.

Theodore Foster and party Consistin of 9 Men Started to Establish a fery at the Mouth of Gilio and Colorado. the indians ar Very hostil towards the Mexicans and feel doutful of Suckseed unless We Can get a bout Twenty five Men

Jun the 5th 1850

Rodelo of Cateel for th- [] Rancho

The Supisiton is shall the Toll be Colecete that is now in [] the state of California Was in the cors or note as no one will be abel to do more than to turn over his property more than one

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

[p. 38]

Rancho del Chino
Feby 15th 1850

To the Hon.

President of the Senate of California

Sir.

I have noticed in the proceedings of the Legislature of this state that that body had before it on the 11th of January a resolution imbodying a note of thanks to Capt. Sutter & to myself for the relief extended by us to imigrats the past season and that on the pasage of said resolution through the body over which you preside my name was struck out, the introduction of such a resolution into the legislature was perhaps needless and uncalled for; certainly it was unsolicited and quite unknown to me but after having been once introduced to be then by a deliberate act of legislative action recinded while that of Capt. Sutter is retained is palapably an assault upon my character. I am not at all desirous of public attention but I am not quite prepared to sit down quietly under the Imputations which the passage of such a resolution involves. The reputation of every man is his dearest possession and of the more value inasmuch as it involves the happiness and welfare not merely of himself but of his Family and friends. it is with this [] that I protest against the outrage committed upon me and demand as I conceive it to be my right under the circumstances a hearing before a commitee of your body. if it should then appear that I have been negligent or unregardful of the wants of my Cuntrymen in distress or unmindful of my duties as an American Citizen let the fact be made known and let my name be branded with all the approbriam which it may seem to deserve, but although making this request in all sincerity yet I am not credulous enough to suppose it will be granted me. I shall therefore crave the liberty of laying before the honable body over which you preside a plain statement of the mode in which I have conducted towards the emigration for the past to seasons. I make this statement I beg you to believe with no little hesitation and repugnance but

RECORD BOOK OF THE RANCHO DEL CHINO

it appears to be the only course left for me to rebut the

[p. 39]

calumnies to which it seems I have been subjected. It may not be known to you that my ranche is situated on the great thoroughfare from Atlantic states that crosses the colorado and that I am the first perminint american Settler to be met upon it my property also directly adjoining the cahon Pass through which enters the old Spanish Trail, as it is termed, from Santa Fee and also the road from the Salt Lake and Los Angeles—In consequence of this position my house has been visited since the commencement of the gold excitement with a number of people that I hesitate to name I can safely say that there has not been more than two or three days at a time during the period but that more or less emigrants have passed my door and on many days as many as two or three hundred. During the period refered to I have had at my table on an average not less than six persons very often as high as twenty and never less than two or three out of this multitude of persons I have never charged or received one shilling by way of compensation till within two or three weeks past and then in cases of suposed Imposition It is well known that great numbers of the emigrants have reached the settlements the past two seasons in very destitute maner and many of them ill. I doubt if there has been a period for the last twelve Months when I have not had at least one invalid in my House Three men have died here within as many months last passed. From robbery by the Indians and other causes great numbers of the emigrants have arrived at my Rancho on foot. I have furnished on credit over 200 Animals to such with an understanding that they should pay me when the got to the mines. In addition to this I have advanced in cash to emigrants more than \$5000 and from all the amount of credits I have not yet received in all probility never shall \$500—to parties who have passed in want of provisions I have Invariably sold corn and wheat at \$6—pr. fanaga while flour has been selling at 25cts pr. pound at Los Angeles the nearest neighbouring Pueblo. Whenever a party

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

has wanted meet which occurs daily I have invariably supplied them without charge unless indeed they required a bullock and these I have supplied at from \$4- to \$8 which has been not more than about one half what my neighbours during the present winter have sold such animals for the emigrants from the salt Lake then distant at least 300 miles dispatched to me a messenger requesting me to send them a supply of provisions.

[p. 40]

I at once fittid out a train of pack mules which met them many miles the other side of the Moevia river Many of them were women and children on foot and had been living for at least three weeks on the flesh of their exhausted oxen and animels My agent supplied them with flour and other nessicarys at that point much cheeper than such articles could be obtained at Los Angeles and when parties were unable to pay upon credit and many times without charge. Many of these arrived at my rancho pennyless and in not a few instances without a shoe to their feet - The lived upon me for weeks and to several who were unable to pay me I gave shoes and other necessarys and sent them on their way. In placing this statement before you I beg you to bear in mind the pecularity of the circumstances under which I act. I write neither for the purpose of symathy or to crave restitution. I ask no mans praises and need no mans favours, but I do ask that when the highest tribunal in the State in which I am now one of the oldest American Citizens, have deliberatly maligned my reputation that they shall as far as may be practiable give me an opportunity of rebutting the calumnies which have been made against me and to the end I request that you cause this communication to be contradicted I pledge myself to substanciate their correctness in any way before any tribunal that can be Instituted.

Very Respectfully
Yours

Thomas Macklin from Tacksan County near Westport
read before the Senate. Should any of its assertions be
missourie this the 29 of aprile 1850

RECORD BOOK OF THE RANCHO DEL CHINO

[p. 41]

Passed May th. 131850.

W. T. Freeman.

H. W. James.

May 18th 1850

Rancho Del Chino

Jeremiah Hill & Joshua Kidd passed this place on our way to San Francisco. We left Banner Colirado March 11th 1850, in company with 14 other Americans. We came to the Rio Coliraddy May 3rd. we found the Indians verry much enraged towrds all americans they openly say they intend to murder all companies of Americans who may pass or try to pass the River Coliraddo. We ware at all times on our gard or I truly believe we would all have been killed We ware protected by a Mexican from Chihuahua Don Enacue Monte Negro him self and party manifest the kindest feelings for us. he has distinguished himself as a gentleman in many respects to wards our little company J. Hill left Nashville Tennessee for California March 6th 1849 — landed in B July 22 ed 1849 & accidintally in dismounting from my horse shot my self in the thigh — there I lay for eight months but thank God I am now well

Respectfully

J. Hill

Jesus[]Joshua S Kidd

Jose Ignacio Gz.

Montenegro

[p. 42]

May 29th 1850

Passed the Rancheria del Chino day & date as aboce in health and good spirits

Dr Tom Rucker of Louisiana

James Rogers Chihuahua

Saml Mitchel Ge

Horatio R. Newton Tenn

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

L. W. Cambell Rochester N. Y.

June 3rd. A Beautiful rain storm at the Rancho del Chino
which lasted part of a day and night June 4th. Clearing up.
_____Thmant at 70 — 70

Wm. R. Owen & Co Arrived here on the 10th day of June
1850

Wm R Owen from Henry County Mo.

Dr. O M Dickinson wife & daughter Jackson Co. Mo.

E. S Terry St. Clair County Mo.

D. Catheys Henry Co Mo.

Wm. Ludwick Bates Co Mo

D. Sims St Clair Co Mo

G. Allen Henry Co "

E Rayl Cooper "

J Ward Ray "

M Branstetter "

C Webster Ohio

J P Bailey East Tenn.

I arrived here on the 10th day of June 1850 and find Col. Williams to be aman of the most friendly disposition that I have met with in this Country — I find that he has all ways favoured Emigrants that has come to him when they were destitute of means he has Loaned thousands of Dollars to Emigrants which he never saw before he loaned me the finest Riding Horse I backed to ride through the Country as far Los Angeles—and went me to the sea cost valley we traveled

[p. 43]

the mountains some 15 miles that was covered with the finest oats I ever saw — then through the valley that was coverd with clover I have never before been so delited with a ride of the same distance I will leave here to day June 17th 1850

Stolen from me one Black mule swab-tail from 10 to 15 years old Brands not recollect one saddle on the Dragoon form but smaller made expressly for mules heavy Iron Stirrups Quiltted

RECORD BOOK OF THE RANCHO DEL CHINO

Seat Black Leathers one Bridle Blnket [] Stolen by a Mexican from N. Mexico above Sanafe some 40 miles | Albacue is the name of the Town I believe the man is named, Martine, Stolen on the 11th June 1850

Wm. R. Owen
Wm. R. Owen

June 18 1850 G. A. Ulrich M. D.
 " George M. Albricht
 " C. Benjamin Young

Sanriago Bogioane Purnlalw two bugits one bufalow three blankits one Shotgun If any thing happens me Solomon Westbrook Write to Mathews Westbrook Woodberry Morrow County Ohio—June the 19, 1850

S. Westbrook

March th. 2. 1850.

C H F []

June 28 | 50

L Robidoux Esq

Arived from Los Angeles And Says Ca S Foster and party ho went to Rio Colorado to Establis a fery were all Cilled by the Uma Indian

June 29|50

Arived Mr Robson from the [] new of dificulty with the Indins and from Monty to the [] found 5 ded bodys in the

[p. 44]

Rio San An—and new [] a Indin aprochin him in the nigh took to his hors and Road 20 ors With at Siting from the Sadle

als Says Capt Merched is in Los Angeles With 50 Mounted men on his way to the Rio Colorado to put down the Indins and to asist the Emigrants in Cross --

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

July 16|50

Arived a party of Mexicanans and Say Cond Foster and
party are all Well at the Rio Colerado and Traden with
th Indins

R. E. Wilson & company arived here on the 26th of August 1850
Jas Harris & Marian Collier
J. H. Peel Augest 26th 1850 1850
G. W. Tatom of Arkansas Johnson Cty Ark Aug 26
George Kennedy of Texas La Co 1850
A C Tatom of Arkansas Johnson Cty
Thomas Stewart Arkansas Johnson Cty
Peter A. Rainbott of Texas Fannin County

W. F. B. Sanford arrived here on the 10th day of September
1850, in Company with Enoch Ball. Left Doctor F. A. Here-
ford with his party at New River.

[p. 45]

One common sized deep red American ox with nowhite nor
any marks or brands recollect high slim horns & the bushy
part of his tail cut off

Rancho del Chino Wm L. Holt
January 19th 1851

May 24th 1851

Jno G. Brown
Buffalo
New York State
J. Bankhead Magruder U S A
William Hollister "Chi Psi Ranch"
San Joaquin Co. Cal.
Saml. R. Dummer wide world
on the mountain top.

RECORD BOOK OF THE RANCHO DEL CHINO

Chino, July 11th 1851.

Col. Williams will please take any horses bilingong to the State.
branded - - S.C.

Maj Ira W. Bird
Quarter Master & com.

H

H. H. Greene
San Francisco

Care of Wells & Co

Lost November 25th. 1851 our yoke red & white oxen branded
as follows WA which if found I wish to be delivered to Mr
Bledsoe of Los Angeles

F. B. C. Duff

[p. 46]

Thomas Mathews
(copy) Rancho del Chino
January 5th. 1852

Gold pen & pencil case marked J. C. M to J. J. M Vienna
[] & [] & pocket spy Glass and any other
little article that was taken from my house

(Signed) J J Mann

L D Vinsonham Stockton Cala
care of Seofield & co
lives on the Rio Fresno
Savages camp

One Bay horse 15 hands high 4 years old with this Brand
dark main and tail

April 16th 1852 I Found a colt belonging to a man of this
rancho which had this brand on it I marked one ear with
the rancho mark

I also Found one colt belonging to a man of
this rancho cream color that has this brand on it []
R B Smith

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

July 4th 1852

Nothing of importance only one man Shot in La Los Angells
the Sheriff Shot a few days [] from St Barbry County

News of the arrest of the 2 deserters that shot
Conel Crage and the []

[p. 47]

Rancho Del Chino
July 8th 1852

Charles B Smith
Washington
D.C-

The Snow Shoes White on the Mountain the Weath pleasant
thermometer 70 - - nothing Worthy of note

Sam Laubheim
Sanford Berry
Geo. Wm Baker
John H Baker

October 9 th 52

Wm Mulins
Nov the 1 1852

I have this day empowered Mr Williams to take my
oxen whare he may find them one is a Red ox this Brand
(brand) the other large pided ox Branded the same

A J Tourrance

California Oct. 30th 1852

Lost two Steers one at the San tana River about the 15
of Oct.- one red Steer Branded on the left hip With C his
Horns looks Old and Stands high the other is a very large
Steer With red Streaks over his body Branded as the
Above described Steer his Back is Swayback his Horns
is large and wide

Nov 5th 1852

A. J. Lowran & Co.

RECORD BOOK OF THE RANCHO DEL CHINO

[p. 48]

Geo T. S. W December 6|52
Col. Henry Washington's Mules lost at Mormon Camp.
1. Hors Mule Brand on left Thigh (brand) Collar
light Brown 1 Mare Mule Collor Bay has White Marks on here
back mad by sadle. -----no brands remembered
Joseph Troskolawski

[p. 49]

Geo S Wright care Goodwin & co or on board Steamer
Sea Bird

Walter Abbott leaves in Mr Williams Charge this day November 23rd 1852 three mules one mouse color'd Do. Dun or yellow
Do Black the former nine years old Branded on the near side
hind thigh the second four years old same brand the latter
three years old Branded Do.

Silas Barger

Nolan Woodworth

Arived to Rancho del Chino Jan 23|53

Isaac Hartman & Mrs. Caroline Hartman arrived at Del Chino
February 14 1853

Gaston Oxararte

[There now follows a space in which there is the word yesterday, the initials BBB(repeated) R. D Miss and words which have been scratched out, also 1850 and 1859 in no order, evidently the idle scratching of someone. The two following entries are superimposed in the ledger]

Received from B. B. Brown the sum of
two hundred and two Dollars

B B. Brown & Co. James S
yesterday I Stay at home a day waiting for you and you
did not come What was the cause of it you disappointed
me very much

Dan Burksell

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

[p. 50]

Rancho del Chino Mayo 13 llegue haqui
Loareano Filiu

July 26|53

The first party of Emigrants Packing with mule from
north of Texas

D W Alexander and party Returned from Sandiego in Serch
of the Murdre [r] of Mr Porter the Murdr maid his Escap to
[] Califerna —

July 29 Arived 2 Mule Wagons the first Emigrat Wagons
Wagons Crost the plans this season
Met with no dificulty on the Root

the Said Egan arived to the mouth Gala on his arivel there
the Express Sent by D. W. Alexander from Sant Diego
about an hour later said Egan arived on his [] the
offisir at the Gilea went to arrest said Egan and was about
to Make his Escape when Digo the Owner of the fery after
Seeing he was likly to Make his Escap Shot him —

Octbr 30 this Emigrant all arived in good health and Stock in
fine Condition

[p. 51]

September th 24 1853

I C. C. Overton have lefte one yoke of oxen with Mr. Williams
and have got the lone of a yoake of oxen of him I am going to
bar creeke near quarts [] California Mr winmerth you will
pleas leave the oxen that is lefte with you with Mr Williams if
you get them here and I will make it rite with you the stear
I had of yours I loste

C. C. Overton

Novemb 2|53

I heer by Certify I have Lost at the Rancho del Chino 1

RECORD BOOK OF THE RANCHO DEL CHINO

Red [] Cow Branded with the Leter A on each hip 1 Light Brindil with a white face with Leter A on Both hips [] work in team 1 White Back Cow Brindil Sid [e]s with Same Brand which I have authrised I Williams to Colect and take Care of them for me -- Witnes --

Thomas Bolling

John Bigerstaff

I heer by Certify

I have lost 1 Small deep Red Cow with a Small white spot in forehead Branded with a fig 2 on the Sholder

Thomas Bolling

G Robert Cass

I heer by Certify I have Lost a dun Cow with the [] of her horns Sawed off Som [e] white a bout his flank []

Novemb 4|53

the fige 3 on his hip

[p. 52]

Rancho del Chino

Novmb 22|53

I heerby Certify I have Lost at the River of Santana a bull marked with a White Bull with a Red head pleas do me the faver to yake car [e] of him and inform me Should you find him and obli ge

F Bacon

H. B. Davis Called Here on his return from Texas Dec 15th 1853 is on a trade with the Col expects to sell a fine Blooded colt 2 years old which he brot from Texas for his own use Lost some 60 head of cattle on the desert Leaves in a few days for home

Adress

H. B. Davis

Stockton

[p. 53]

Rancho Del Chino Dec 20|53

Jan 2|54 This to certify the undersigned have lost from our Campon St ane River 2 Mules & one Brown Bay horse Mule [] Raw hide halter on and the dark Brown with a hair

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Rope on his Neck and a Spanish Brand on the left hip we
herby Authoirze I Williams to take in his care if he can find
Them on or near his Rancho

Nelson Horveth

Henry X Reed

Jun 10th 1854

F. H. Awbry arrived here this evening on his return from
Sante fee via Hila route with fifteen thousand head of Sheep
with a loss of about 4 hundred on the trip 4 waggons and sixty
mules one fine carriage

[]

A Brindle Steer Branded PS on the Right Hip the Property
of H. Smith

[p. 54]

Rancho Delchino March 2 1854

I Hereby appoint

Mr. Isaack Williams to collect and receive for me certain
cattle lost by me on my way from Texas between Temacula
and the above Ranch one large black Steer with a few white
spots on marked with two under half crop and Branded H on
the right hip one large Red Steer same marks and Brand
Red Steer same white in the face

James S Magee

Stolen from Rancho del Chino

Feby the 11|54

Stoln by Indians 1 Marietta about 85 head of mares and
young horse

On the 3 March a party fitted by my Self to follow the
Vilans on the 10 arrived 2 of the party enformed all alive—
the Capan of the party wounded —

Mr James Waters is Brother arrived on his way to Los Angells
for goods to give to the Salt Lake Doctor Carr went in
Company to Los Angeles to procure Medicin for his pacents

RECORD BOOK OF THE RANCHO DEL CHINO

Dacoto Cary will pleas mak any Meranda M with in this Register —

March

12|5

Remando Yorba and Saintago Crus my Indian arived from the Cate Rancho with 600 head of Catel that had passed over the hills in the [] will leave next week for the same regens as the greater part of the Catel have gone South with []

March 12

My party of Rangers arived 10 Oclock in the Evning after a Longe teagus March after Indians ho had Stolen a Larg party of my horses on 2 of Feby they being Badly fited out for Such an Expedition Short of provisins and amunition they fell in with a Small Rancho nad Celled 8 Indians and took five prison-

[p. 55]

ers found 2 of my animal that was Stolen on the 2 of Feby-the Comander Being wound through the Thie which Disabled him from Duty Out of provisn and horses all [] for the want of food

[]¹²

March 15 Recd note from Capt Hope Sayen they was a party of Mexican Robers in the Coty

Dana N. Palmer Dispach with
2 fanga of Corn and
7lbs Lead for the

[]
12 lbs Capitan —
Tobac and pip.
1 fanaga Corn — 5.00
40 Boxes Caps

Sept 29 1854

Isaac Baker arrived in Chiano

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

October 3 |54

Mr Hil droppd in found [] they Would have to be a new Siwash Built

[p. 56]

[] I have lost a Mair Ass Brown []
Thomas Wiggins

April 10|56

Wind and rain continued about three hours

" 12 Wind and rain concd at 2 P M appearance of Continued rain

" 13 Still raining without wind

June 21|56

[p. 57]

Edward Calchand

[] Rancho

[] County

[There now follow four entries in pencil of Nov. 19, 20, 22, 23 giving weather conditions but as the year is uncertain I have left them out] P. [58] An entry of 1873. The next leaf torn at top; P. [59] pen scratches and some pencilled figures. P. [60]: The piece torn from top eliminated some data as to births and deaths; parts of information remain round torn spot. Below torn section, in pencil:

Isaac Williams born A D 1799

Died Sept 13, 1856

Maria Jesus Lugo del Williams born June 24th 1820

[p. 61]

Santa Anna del Chino

Bounded S. E—by the Rancho of *Don Bernardo Yorba*; and that of *Don Juan Bandini*, N. E. by the Rancho of *Don Teb-urcio Tapia and Chamisal*. N. W. by the Rancho of *Don Jose de Jesus Linoris & Don Ygnacio Palomares* S. W. by the mouth of the *Canade de lo Brea*—Containing five leagues Square—

Addition to Santa Anna del Chino Bounded by

RECORD BOOK OF THE RANCHO DEL CHINO

the high ways to San Bernadino—Bounded north by the Rancho of Don Teburici Tapia—S—by the *Pinto de Medaños* and the boundary of the Rancho of Don Juan Bandini and E- by the *Arroyo* of San Antonio & the boundary of Don Ygno. Pallomares. Conaining Three Square leagues -----

[Since Isaac Williams died in the year 1856 and since the entries beyond this point are few and scattered in point of time, I have thought it best to end at this description of the Ranchos. The following page contains several entries for the year 1859 giving weather reports. The next four pages have newspaper clippings pasted-in and four weather reports for dates in the year 1864. Then follows pages of scattered entries for the year 1878 and one page with several names and the date 1895. The remaining are blank]

NOTES

1. Ingersoll, Luther A. Ingersoll's Century Annals of San Bernardino County . . . Los Angeles, 1904. p. 105.
2. Caballeria, Juan. History of San Bernardino Valley . . . San Bernardino, 1902. p. 82.
3. [Robinson, Alfred]. Life in California; . . . New York, 1846. p. 204-205.
4. Cleland, Robert Glass. Pathfinders. . . Los Angeles, [1929] Appendix. p. 399.
5. Davis, William Heath. Seventy-Five Years in California . . . San Francisco, 1929. p. 219, 220.
6. Hayes, Benjamin I. Pioneer Notes . . . Los Anegees, 1929. p. 69.
7. Albuquerque, Socoro and route shown on Emory map to Ojo de Vaca. For following entries in the Record Book the editor will make notes for only those place names which are not easily guessed, since the original nature of the spelling would necessitate a volume of notes.
8. Words and phrases which are completely illegible will be noted throughout by brackets.
9. Two names were marked out with ink. As nearly as can be read: Joseph Samuels, Franklin Dunham.
10. Entry: John B Cameron Conductor of Lagrang Compney arived here on the 18th of Sept. 1849 with two wagons and 13 men to wit my one and Capt. Murchisons all is well. This entry has been crossed out and appears in an amplified form later.
11. Entry: R A Latimer Arrived here on the 29th Sept |49
William Collier J. B. Tunis 29 Sept 1849
This entry has been crossed out.
12. Pencil scribbling: Los Angeles Star:the word We; evidently made at a later date.

Par devant le

Honoré Ayot

soussigné fut présent

lequel s'est volontairement engage et s'engage par ces présentes a

J. C. Fremont

à ce présent et acceptant pour à sa

premiere requisition partir de ce poste en qualité de ~~voyageur chasseur~~ pour

faire le voyage, tant en allant qu'en revenant, et pour hiverner pendant ~~le temps du quatre~~

~~Mois plus au moins pour aller dans l'Amazone~~
~~et Montagnes~~

libre à son retour a ~~S. Louis~~

nouri au bled d'Inde ou autre aliment

obtenu dans le pays sauvage

Et avoir bien, et dument soin pendant les routes et etant au dit lieu , de toutes les marchan-
dises, pelleteries, vivres, utensiles, et de toutes choses nécessaires pour les voyages, traite en

hivernement: servir, obier et executer fidèlement tout ce que les dits J. C. Fremont

ou toutes personnes aux quels les dits ~~J. C. Fremont~~

est autorisé par ces présentes de transporter cet engagement, lui commanden-
t de licite et honnête faire son profit, éviter son dommage l'avertir de toutes choses touchant
son intérêt qui vient à sa connoissance, travailler dans les postes, villes, villages et campagnes,
non considéré comme pays sauvages, si requis et généralement tout ce que un bon

doit, et est obligé de faire sans pourvoir faire aucune traite pour son
particulier, ni avec les blancs, ni avec les sauvages s'absenter, ni quitter le dit service, son les
peines portées par les lois, et de perdre ses gages.

Cet engagement ainsi fait, pour et moyennant la somme de ~~troys~~ — piastres,
argent des Etats Unis, que les dits ~~J. C. Fremont~~

ou celui à qui cet engagement est transporté promet et s'oblige de bailler et payer au dit
un mois après son tems échu

Fait et passé à ~~S. Louis~~ le ~~deux~~ ~~de May~~
Pour mil huit cent ~~quatre-vingt-dix~~ ont signé à l'exception du dit
qu'ayant déclaré ne le savoir faire, a
fait sa marque ordinaire après lecture faite

En présence du témoin

H. S. Tom

Honoré Ayot
Mark

AN UNUSUAL FREMONT DOCUMENT

On the 22nd day of May, 1842, Second Lieutenant John C. Frémont of the Corps of Topographical Engineers, arrived at St. Louis under orders "to explore and report upon the country between the frontiers of Missouri and the South Pass in the Rocky Mountains." At St. Louis he collected a group of twenty-one men, "principally Creole and Canadian *voyageurs*, who had become familiar with prairie life in the service of the fur companies in the Indian country." Among these men was one Honoré Ayot, whose contract of employment as a "voyageur chasseur" is here reproduced.

This contract is one of the most interesting of the many documents in the collection of Frémont papers formerly owned by the explorer's widow and now in the possession of the Southwest Museum at Los Angeles. It is a printed "legal form," apparently not prepared for the use of this expedition alone, but probably a form commonly used at the time for contracts covering the employment of French-Canadian *voyageurs* by the far-western fur and trading companies. It is of interest not only because of its terms and conditions, but also because it is a printed form and because it is printed in French, the language of so large a proportion of the "mountain men" and prairie traders and hunters.

Honoré Ayot is mentioned in Frémont's report of this expedition¹ as having been employed at St. Louis. Along with Basil Lajeunesse, Baptiste Bernier and Lucien Maxwell, he was selected to accompany the explorer and the cartographer, Preuss, on a side-trip up the South Fork of the Platte to Fort St. Vrain, and he appears to have been one of the party which climbed high into the Wind River range. Though he was not with the small group which reached the summit of Frémont's Peak on August 15th, he is mentioned as one of the expedition's "best men" in connection with the adventurous descent of the Sweetwater River in Frémont's celebrated "India-rubber boat."

We are enabled to reproduce this curious historical document through the courtesy of Dr. Frederick W. Hodge, Curator of the Southwest Museum. In reproducing it we have slightly reduced it in size, the original measuring 7 $\frac{7}{8}$ by 12 $\frac{3}{8}$ inches.

Carl I. Wheat

¹Report of the exploring expedition to the Rocky Mountains in the year 1842, and to Oregon and North California in the years 1843-44. By Brevet Captain J. C. Fremont Washington, 1845 (28th Congress, 2nd Session, Senate Document No. 174).

SAN DIEGO IN 1855 AND 1856

[*From Letters of Thomas Rylan Darnall**]

San Diego Oct 18th 1855

Brother James

. . . . I cannot write of the people individually nor collectively, more than to say they are a heterogenous combination and amalgamation of all nations and kinds; before the arrival of the americans and not a little time before, there were a few families of Spaniards, and a lot of soldiers, who, by amalgamation with the indians, have produced the race now denominated "greasers," they are so near the indian or negro, that "it comes d--d nigh to kill it" I know many american men here, whose wives and children, if traveling through the south would be required to show their passes; yet there are some as fair and rosy cheeks among the native Californians as can be found in any part of the world: "few and far between." I have not seen a person since 1851 that I knew before that time, and of course you cannot expect to hear any thing of your acquaintances. Perhaps a slight description of the Celebrated City of San Diego would interest you:

San Diego, (the terminus of the great Pacific Rail Road as it is to be) in english, is Saint James, was formerly an old Presidio established by the government of Mexico for the protection of the Jesuit missionaries and the few inhabitants, who lived here at that time, from the ravages of the hostile

*The excerpts here printed are from copies of his letters made by Darnall himself at the time of writing which are now in the possession of his grand-daughter, Mrs. H. H. Hughes. The first letter (which we have not included) is dated December 8, 1850, and is from Yolo County, where he was evidently engaged in ranching after having been to the mines; two more written the same month and in January, 1851, are from Sacramento; and the next is from San Diego, June 7, 1855.

William E. Smythe in his History of San Diego (San Diego, 1908) states that Thomas R. Darnell (or Darnall) kept a store in San Diego in the early 50's and that in 1856 he was Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. He states also that he was an organizer of the San Diego and Gila Railroad Company, was Worshipful Master of the Masonic Lodge in 1858, and left San Diego soon after the latter year.

We have not disturbed Darnall's sometimes curious spelling and capitalization.

SAN DIEGO IN 1855 AND 1856

indians, who infested the small settlements on the coast. The city is situated on the bay of san diego and contains about thirty six square miles within the limits of the corporation. The bay of San Diego is second only to the bay of San Francisco in respect to size, of all the harbors on the coast, but as regards safety San Diego harbor is not excelled by any harbor in the world; it lies in the form of a crescent and is about fifteen miles in length, and from one mile to three miles in width, is completely land-locked, so the largest vessels in the world can lay at anchor in perfect safety during any storm, no matter from what quarter of the globe it may come. Immediately within the mouth of the harbor is the perfect and natural breakwater "Ballast point," this is a low rocky point extending almost across the mouth of the harbor, but terminating exactly at the spot, at which the best engineer would have cried halt; west of the bay, that is, between the bay and the ocean, rises the promontory "Point Loma," which is the site of the light house but recently completed, and the great safe guard of our harbor. Point Loma, at the mouth of the bay rises abruptly from the waters edge several hundred feet and extends north and east, in a semi-circle, gradually decreasing in abruptness at the water's edge, until it expands into a plain of more than a mile in width, but, still, retaining its elevation in the back ground, leaving our beautiful city, as it were in a bowl, with a harbor where hundreds of the largest ships may ride at anchor with perfect safety. The bay abounds in all kinds of fish, even Mackerel are caught here annually in large quantities; and a kind of red fish of which the fishermen catch an immensity, and dry and prepare them for exportation; there is a kind of shark which infests portions of the bay, the fear of which renders it unpleasant bathing. The City is divided into three parts, 1st La Playa (the beach) is that part of the city nearest the mouth of the harbor, this was formerly the embarcadero of the hides and tallow that were shipped from this port, and is on the part of the bay, now, mostly used as an anchorage, here the mail steamers land their mails and freight; here is situated the Custom house &c &c. 2d As we travel up the bay,

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we next arrive at the part called Old Town by the americans and El Presidio by the Californians, this part is San Diego proper, and contains most of the commercial houses of the City, the houses here are generally those that were built by the natives previous to the year 1849, and are composed mostly of adobes, and covered with tiles; they are generally but one story in highth, and the walls frequently as much as five feet in thickness, the better to withstand the frequent visitations of earthquakes; this is the principal depot for produce from the adjacent country, the Rancheros come here to barter their "effectos" for dry goods and groceries; here is the printing office, Post Office &c &c. 3dly We arrive at the part called New Town which owes its name to the recent survey and plat of the place; it is three miles from Old Town, and has been built since 1849, the inhabitants of this portion of the city are entirely american, it has been a thriving little place, but at present it is very dull; there the government commissary depot is situated, formerly the supplies, for the army at forts Yuma and Jarupa, were freighted on waggons from this place, but since the opening or commencement of navigation on the Colorado river, the supplies to Yuma are shiped by the way of the gulf of California, consequently the withdrawal of the government teams has injured the business of New Town considerably. In the year 1850 a long and splendid wharf was built here, at an immense cost (\$70,000) but from sheer negligence about repairing, it is now almost disused.

San Diego will probably be selected as the terminus of the great Atlantic and Pacific Rail Road, it has all the natural advantages requisite, for the terminus, and in point of practicability it has no equal, although, that prince of topographical engineers, Lieut Williamson surveyed the route, by passing over it without setting an instrument, and reports it impracticable, Mr Chas H Poole civil engineer, in the employ of the San Diego And Gila Southern Pacific And Atlantic Rail Road Company, (there is a name for a company) has made a very careful and correct survey of the Route declared by Williamson to be impracticable, and reports to the company

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the feasibility of the same. I do not remember the exact grade, but I know it is less than the grade of several of the eastern roads. San Pedro, a small roadstead, up the coast from here is making some pretensions to rivalry for the terminus, they have nothing to recommend the place, but the ease with which their port can be entered, for vessels passing up and down the coast can see San Pedro many miles before they reach it, there is no point Loma to shield it from the view or the winds, no Ballast point to retard the fierce breakers approach; but every part is open and exposed to view and storm. San Francisco is too far away, the engine must stop to blow before she goes such a distance, and when she stops, at the mouth of the Gilo, to blow a little, we will switch her off to San Diego, at least let us pray so. When the Rail Road is completed I intend visiting the eastern states, I would like very much to visit you now but have no money. I own twenty shares in the S. D. & G. S. P & A R R Company¹, we have a charter from the state of California for the construction of this road, the continuation of the road is from San Diego to the mouth of the Gilo river a distance of two hundred and twenty miles, we contemplate constructing this road so as to meet the great road from the east, at the mouth of the Gilo; besides the twenty share in the Rail Road, I have invested every cent I have made, in city property, so I will sink or swim with old S Diego on the issue of the rail road; yet if I can make money enough this winter to come home on I will come. I would like to start about the first of March next, and will if I can raise the wind. I think I have a very good show to realize a few hundred dollars by that time but may slip up on it, so I

¹San Diego's first attempt at railroad construction was in 1854. "A company calling itself the San Diego and Gila Southern Pacific and Atlantic R. R. co. was organized, and its route surveyed. The project slumbered for the next few years, and was terminated by the civil war. About 1867 it was revived, with the expectation of forming a combination with the Memphis and El Paso transcontinental scheme of John C. Frémont. In 1868, M. C. Hunter visited San Diego as an agent of this eastern company, and agreed to construct a road for the franchises of the Gila company; but before the surveys and maps were completed, the company dissolved. The contract, however, was not rescinded until 1872, when the same property was purchased and presented to the Texas and Pacific R. R. co." (Bancroft, *History of California*, VII, 595-96.)

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will not promise. All I want is the terminus of the Rail Road to be at San Diego, then I will be with you forever, and have money enough for all of us; on the ninth of this month I purchased a lot of land at La Playa containing five acres for the sum of one hundred dollars, which will be worth fifty thousand dollars the day that it is ascertained that San Diego will be the terminus of the road; the lot fronts on the bay, and is the best lot that has been sold for some time in San Diego, most of the valuable lots are in the hands of those who are waiting for the R R; "there is a good time coming."

If we only had some of the society here, that we find in the older states, then we would have the greatest country in the whole world, even without the Rail Road. There is but one american girl in the place unmarried who is grown, and she can neither read or write; scarcely any of the native Californians can read or write. We have the most healthy and salubrious climate in the world; I have been here nearly three years, and have not seen more than six or seven funerals, and most of those deaths were caused by imprudence. We frequently have a *baile* (ball) to while away the time, the Californian girls are great for dancing; their principal dancing consists in waltz and polkas, in the execution of which they excel any girls I ever saw; they likewise beat all creation in eating, a party of twenty Californian girls will eat more than one hundred american girls. As the women excel in dancing so the men excel in horsemanship, they are by far the most superior horsemen I ever saw, even the boys three or four and five years of age are expert in the management of the horse. I know a sprightly little fellow eight years old named Francisco Pico, whom I have known to travel frequently the distance of fifty miles on horseback, and alone; even at their bull fights you will see boys in the ring, from eight to twelve years of age; in fact I might with propriety say they are bred on horseback.

I had well nigh forgotten to inform you that I was a candidate for sheriff at the late general election and was defeated by twenty votes.

Rylan

* * * * *

SAN DIEGO IN 1855 AND 1856

San Diego Aug. 5th 1856

Usually, we have the most mild climate in the world, but for the last few days it has been intensely hot, and to alleviate the sultriness, I go bathing, almost every evening, in the ocean, and every Sunday certain for the girls go along, and Oh! what a luscious time! "We does has"; that is a luxury I never enjoyed in the States. We have the nicest beach in the world for bathing with just sufficient breakers to make it interesting and pleasant. It is very dangerous bathing in the bay on account of a kind of fish called, here, stingaree, which lays flat on the bottom, it takes its name from a sharp boney substance, resembling a needle, appended to its tail; and when tread upon or molested will strike with great force, its stroke is immediately followed by great pain, accompanied with swelling of the wounded part; it has never to my knowledge been found only in smooth-water, so to evade its attacks we go to the breakers outside of the bay. You must not imagine, because it is not customary, in your country, for men and women to bathe together, that the women here are more immoral or indecent than there, such is not the case; custom makes laws, and as it is a custom to bathe together here we can see no impropriety in its indulgence; besides it is becoming fashionable in the eastern cities. I am no nearer, now, apparently, coming home than this time last fall, I have not one dollar more than I had then, but am awful home-sick I own a quarter section one mile from the court house, which I want to enclose this fall and winter, so that I can rent it out, if I enclose it this fall I will sow the whole of it in wheat and barley; fencing is very costly here, we cannot get any timber that will make rails except pine and that at a great distance of fifty or sixty miles, I intend to fence picket fashion timber for which can be obtained within a range of twenty miles. . . .

Sept 1ST My birth "Day"

I was out of town, when the mail boat was here, on a little speculation. The spanish population here are all catholics, and they always celebrate the natal days of their patron saints with high mass and feasting. Forty-five miles from here is the largest Mission in Calia' dedicated to "San Luis Rey," the

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anniversary of his birth or canonization, I know not which, is the 25th of August. So in anticipation of a great time, I went a week in advance with a load of goods to sell—and made nothing and was detained until the mail boat had gone.

* * * * *

September 13th, 1857

Father and Mother

... I have entered into a copper mining speculation in Mexico, and have invested every cent that I can call my own and a *little more*. I feel confident that I have a good show to make a grand raise. I have had quite a serious difficulty with the Mexican authorities during the last month, I was confined in prison for twelve days in a very precarious situation. I send you some papers containing the details—if it had not been for this difficulty we would now have between six thousand and ten thousand dollars worth of ore on the way to the market, but now I do not know when we will be able to ship the ore. I have two joint partners in the mining operation. Aside from the mining speculation my prospects are very flattering. I have a considerable amount invested in San Diego property, which I think shall be very valuable in a short time. Tomorrow I start again for the mine, and will probably remain there several months, it is situated in the mexican territory of Lower California about eighty miles south of the line. .¹

¹William E. Smythe in his *History of San Diego* (p. 653) has the following to say of Darnall's Mexican adventure:

"In 1858, while Thomas R. Darnall was W. M. of the lodge, he went down into Lower California as manager in charge of a party of miners and prospectors. The party lost a number of their animals, and at last caught the thief in the act of stealing one of them and by accident or otherwise shot him. For this the whole party was arrested and imprisoned, but Darnall found means to bribe an Indian to carry a letter to San Diego, stating that they expected to be summarily shot or sent to the City of Mexico for trial, and asking for help. The Masons at once gathered at their hall and began to devise means to rescue Darnall and the other Americans. As it chanced to be steamer day, word was sent to the lodge at Los Angeles that their aid might be needed, and they replied by the first mail: 'If you wish help, notify us at once, and we will join you

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with fifty mounted men.' The Mexican population of Old Town, becoming aware that an armed expedition was in preparation, sent a courier to their countrymen advising them to release the imprisoned Americans at once, or 'those terrible Masons' would be upon them. The advice was taken and the whole party released and soon returned safely to San Diego."

THE SECULARIZATION OF THE MISSIONS

A Newly Discovered California Document

[*With an Introduction by Henry R. Wagner*]

The appearance of a hitherto unknown printed document relating to California is always a matter of interest, especially when the document happens to be one of historical importance. How the Report described below could so long have escaped observation is a mystery. To be sure, it was not intended for public consumption and therefore was possibly only printed in a comparatively small edition, but other similar reports have frequently come down to us. Whatever the cause, it is a fact that a search among the numerous catalogues of books which have been published since the Andrade sale in 1869 fails to disclose any record of it. Perhaps it was thought too insignificant to mention; still copies should be found somewhere, in libraries if nowhere else. But even there they are just as conspicuous by their absence as in the catalogues.

The history of the secularization of the missions goes back to the sixteenth century. It was the policy of the Spanish government to allow a certain indeterminate number of years for missionaries to operate in any given district. After that, when the natives were supposed to be sufficiently instructed in the Christian faith and in their duties as citizens of the Spanish state to be able to get along without the missionaries, it was the policy to turn them over to the secular clergy. The various missionary orders fought these measures with varying degrees of success, but gradually their missionaries were ousted and were replaced by village curates. The process was slow, however, because the missionaries could usually truthfully allege that the natives were not sufficiently instructed. At the time of the expulsion of the Jesuits in 1767 efforts were again made to secularize the missions and in fact this was accomplished in quite a large part of the old Jesuit territory. Lower California, however, was not considered ready for the change, and a new set of missionaries, Franciscans,

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was introduced into the province. After the occupation of Upper California the peninsular part was turned over to the Dominicans, and they continued to function there for a long time, just as the Franciscans did in Upper California.

The first serious effort to secularize these missions took place in Spain during the troublous times of the Napoleonic régime. Such a law was passed September 15, 1813, which was to be effective throughout the whole Spanish colonial empire. It was not, however, until some years after the independence of Mexico had been achieved that the question came to the front in that country. A contributing factor to the agitation on the subject in Mexico lay in the fact that many of the missionaries were Spaniards and the government from political motives wished to expel all the Spaniards from Mexico. The missionary colleges in Mexico were by this time almost empty, and missionaries of Mexican birth could not be found to take the place of the Spaniards, thus forging another link in the chain which led to the final secularization. The law in which this was decreed was passed August 17, 1833, and is of course well known, as it appears in all the collections of laws afterwards printed in Mexico, and became a matter of public information in both Californias shortly thereafter. I do not recall that, outside of the works of Father Zephyrin Engelhardt and of Hubert Howe Bancroft, any particularly consistent idea of the motives for this law can be obtained, and it is not my purpose to embark on that subject on this occasion. It appears, however, that on May 9, 1833, a commission of three members of the chamber of deputies of Mexico rendered a report on the subject in which they laid down a law which they recommended for passage. This proposed law was the one finally adopted with the exception of a single word. In Paragraph 14 in the original project, where it is stated that those missionaries should leave the republic who "resisted taking the oath of independence", a change was made so that it read "those who had not taken the oath of independence". The distinction is a rather fine one, but it might be concluded that no opportunity was to be given to them to take the oath if they had not already done so. A translation of the document

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follows. It belongs to Mr. W. B. Stephens of Mexico City, who has kindly consented to allow a translation of it to be published, and it is couched in the high flown language of the period.

Henry R. Wagner

THE REPORT

Report of the Commission of the District and the Territories on Secularization of the Missions of both Californias.

The commission of the district and territories in order to recommend to this respectable chamber the project of law on secularization of the missions of both Californias does not believe it necessary to do more than recall that even the Spanish *Cortes* fixed its attention on this business. Our independence achieved, the supreme government has not deviated from its endeavors in the same matter, availing itself of a commission of individuals to whose well-accredited intelligence are due some well-considered reports on the laws which that privileged country needs for the aggrandisement of which it is susceptible, and among these considers secularization as the method very well adapted to secure such noble ends.

The commission of Ultramar in Cadiz put forth such irresistible reasoning that the assembly was convinced of the evils which afflicted the natives subject to the missions both in the moral and political aspects under the conditions which then existed, and that on the other hand secularization would serve to relieve humanity burdened with the sad fate of these unfortunate beings, and would repair in part those evils which they had suffered in their hard slavery. Your commission calls here the attention of the chamber to these facts: that government in magnifying its liberty wished to double on our necks the chains which they were cutting from their sons; to procure their aggrandisement they sought for us abasement and oppression; to make clear the rights which nature gives to all men they wished to discharge over us heavy clouds that obscure the most luminous principles and bury in perpetual oblivion the duties of the mother country towards those who are also its sons. Notwithstanding this they decreed in the year

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1813 the secularization of the missions, ordered the administration and management of the property to be wrenching from the hands of the religious people and deposited with the civil authorities in order that by a just and proper distribution those to whom it belonged by so many titles should enter into the enjoyment of it. What then should be expected of a government truly paternal and philanthropic in which we enjoy so satisfactorily the social pleasures?

This government with respect even to the Californias, in order to take the extended view which is exacted by a policy for all those governed, hears from the commission of wise men which is formed for that purpose the projects for the organization of that country, and from them arises the initiative which is about to be discussed. The missionaries, whether Jesuits, Fernandinos, or Dominicans, at the beginning labor with the evangelical spirit. Their toils and apostolic labors are recompensed with seasoned fruits of conversion; they overrun the deserts, they penetrate the forests, they domesticate those savage beings, they mitigate their ferocious customs, and raise them to a certain grade in civil life. Without fear it might be augured that they would be those who without doubt would dissipate ignorance, combat errors and prejudices to the point where they planted there the holy law of Nature which is the foundation of the others. But how soon did they come to submerge those unfortunate beings in a chaos a thousand times more horrible than the other from which they had emerged! Administration of the property turns them aside from their vocation and far from persuading the weak, opposing the rebels and conducting all towards happiness, they continue the conquest like their predecessors, and the natives see renewed in themselves the days of horror and mourning in the punishment and severity which they suffer from those who profess the adorable religion which inspires sweetness and preaches humanity and meekness. This despotic monklike government, once independence was gained, increases the misfortune of the Californias, since the missionaries, being in the greater part Spaniards and refusing to take the oath of independence, make them feel all the evils which afflict

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subordinates when the mandarins, mad and infuriated, have to turn loose their prey which for so long a time has increased their boundless ambition.

Such misfortunes are in part alleviated by the undertakings of the government, in the greater part the law of colonization which has just been discussed will remedy them, and they will disappear with this one which arranges normally the spiritual régime. So at least the commission believes with conviction and so also does the executive manifest it by the projected law in question. Although the executive strikes in substance the indispensable point it is the duty of the commission to make some amplifications or proper restrictions in order to avoid insuperable difficulties. Such in their conception are the very niggardly salaries of the curates, in the 1500 *pesos* which are allowed them, because in truth their lot does not by its very nature have in itself the attraction which it should have and be capable of sweetening in some way the kind of isolated life which these men are going to undertake in remote countries, without the attractions of society in the midst of the contrast and bitterness of their profession, living in huts frightful and disagreeable on account of their solitude. All this imperiously calls for good large salaries which can make all this supportable and agreeable in view of their usefulness. A competent remuneration for this service has been duly respected, not only by Christian peoples but even by the idolatrous ones; thus Egypt and Athens consecrated a great part of their fields and their crops for the support of their false cult and priesthood. In view of all this the commission advises an allowance to the curates of 2000 to 2500 *pesos*, the copious Pious Fund which, certainly ought only to be employed for these purposes, giving an entirely ample opening to it in this field to warrant the proposition.

From the antecedent enlarged view of the subject there results the smaller quantity which should be assigned to the outside vicar in case he should not be one of the curates, the commission in this case, in order to preserve a proportionate subsistence, advising 1500 *pesos* instead of the 2000 or 2500

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which it has assigned for the first category.

In the judgment of the commission, in the rest of the articles comprehended in this law, the great object is completely fulfilled of making pleasing there a religion, which although in itself it is so inherently, yet the interests and venality of its evil ministers dress it with clothing which disfigures it and prevents the beautiful colors which beautify it and the beautiful robes which adorn it from being seen by all. Therefore the commission offers for the deliberation of the chamber the following articles:

- Art. 1. The government will proceed to secularize the missions of Upper and Lower California.
2. In each one of these missions a parish will be established served by a parish priest of the secular clergy with a salary of 2000 up to 2500 *pesos* annually according to the judgment of the government.
3. These parish priests shall not collect nor receive any fee for marriages, baptisms, burials, or under any other name whatever. In respect to fees for pomp they can receive those which are expressly set out in the schedule which will be formed with this object in view by the bishop of that diocese as soon as possible and which shall be approved by the supreme government.
4. The churches which have served in each mission with their sacred vessels, ornaments and other equipment which each one has today, are destined for the parishes, and in addition the rooms next to the church itself, which in the judgment of the government may be thought necessary for the most decorous use of the parish itself.
5. For each parish the government will order a cemetery to be constructed outside of the town.
6. Five hundred *pesos* annually are assigned to sustain the worship and the servants of each parish.
7. The most appropriate of the buildings belonging

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to each mission shall be assigned for the habitation of the parish priest, adding to it ground not to exceed 200 *varas* square, and the others shall be assigned especially for the town house, the school of first letters, public establishments and workshops.

8. In order to provide at once and effectively for the spiritual needs of both Californias there is to be established in the capital of Upper California a vicar who shall extend his jurisdiction over both territories, and the bishop will confer on him the corresponding powers with all the amplitude possible.
9. For the endowment of this vicar 3000 *pesos* shall be assigned, all business to be performed by him without exacting under any pretext whatever, not even for paper, any fee.
10. If for any reason the parish priest of the capital or of any other parish of those districts should act in this capacity as vicar 1500 *pesos* annually will be assigned to him beyond his salary as curate.
11. No custom whatever, which obliges the inhabitants of the Californias to make gifts for no matter how pious the object, shall be introduced even if it is said to be necessary, and neither time nor the willingness of the citizens themselves can give such any force or virtue whatever.
12. The government will effectively take care that the bishop contributes on his part to fulfill the objects of this law.
13. When the new parish priests have been appointed the supreme government will furnish them gratuitously their transport by sea together with their families and besides for their journey by land, it shall allow each one from 400 to 800 *pesos* according to the distance and the number of family which he takes.

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14. The government will pay the expenses of transporting the missionaries who return, and that they may perform their journey by land in a comfortable manner to their college or convent it shall give each one 200 to 300 pesos, and in its judgment whatever may be necessary to leave the republic for those who reject the oath of independence.
15. The supreme government will pay the expenses contemplated under this law out of the products of real property, the capital and the rents which are now set aside as the Pious Fund of the missions of California.

The committee room of the chamber of deputies,

Mexico, May 9, 1833

BERRIEL — LOSANO — ANAYA

BENJAMIN DAVID WILSON'S
OBSERVATIONS ON EARLY DAYS
IN
CALIFORNIA AND NEW MEXICO

[*With a Foreword and Explanatory Notes
by Arthur Woodward*]

FOREWORD

The following account of the life of Benjamin David Wilson is from the typewritten copy of his memoirs in the possession of Mrs. Edith Shorb Steele, of San Francisco, grand-daughter of Mr. Wilson. Accompanying her copy of this document is a sworn affidavit made by her in 1930 concerning the narration, and the genuineness of the work.

I have personally checked this account with the manuscript copy of Wilson's "Observations," now on file in the manuscript room of Bancroft Library and find that this copy agrees substantially with that obtained by Mr. Savage in 1878. There were minor changes in phrases which I have made, following the Savage copy for this reason, as at times the phrases in the present copy were not consistent, especially those where the use of Spanish words and sentences were involved. The copy was apparently made by some one who did not read, or understand Spanish. The penmanship of Mr. Savage is very clear, his Spanish good, and no difficulty was encountered in copying his words. Several misspelled proper names have likewise been corrected.

The observations of Mr. Wilson have been twice printed before, once, privately, by Miss Anne Wilson Patton, granddaughter of Mr. Wilson, who lives almost on the site of the old Wilson homestead at Lake Vineyard, and a second time by Dr. Robert Glass Cleland in the volume "Pathfinders" of the California series published at Los Angeles in 1929. Commenting on the publication of Wilson's memoirs in the Appendix of that volume Dr. Cleland states:



Benjamin David Wilson

BENJAMIN D. WILSON'S OBSERVATIONS ON EARLY DAYS

"I am deeply indebted to the daughter of Mr. Wilson, Mrs. George S. Patton of San Marino and to the Huntington Library and Art Gallery which possesses a photostat copy of the manuscript."

Unfortunately, both of these accounts lack certain passages, many proper names are misspelled, and one is forced to conclude that the copy now retained in the Bancroft Library is perhaps the most accurate. For that reason, having compared all of the copies, I have chosen to annotate that supplied by Mrs. Edith Shorb Steele, which, with a few minor corrections, is substantially the same as the Bancroft copy.

I am very grateful to Mrs. Steele for her kindness in supplying me with this copy; likewise I am indebted to Miss Anne Wilson Patton for the copy of a rare photograph of B. D. Wilson as a young man, as well as for a copy of the memoirs privately printed by A. C. Vroman, Inc., of Pasadena. I am likewise indebted to Dr. Herbert Priestly and Miss Edna Martin of the Bancroft Library for their courtesies in making the Bancroft Library copy of Mr. Wilson's dictation available to me.

In annotating this interesting document, I have selected only those incidents, places or persons, which seemed to need clarification. If in dwelling longer on James Kirker, or James Johnson I have seemed to place undue emphasis upon these characters, it is only because I wished to resurrect from the dusty limbo of border history a few of the concrete causes of so much of the tragedy that followed, when the Apaches swept the states of Arizona and New Mexico in bloody forays.

MRS. STEELE'S AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA }
CITY AND COUNTY OF } ss
SAN FRANCISCO }

Edith Shorb Steele, being duly sworn, desposes and says: That she is the daughter of J. de Barth Shorb and the granddaughter of Benjamin David Wilson. That she is fully informed as to and cognizant of the manner in which was prepared and obtained a certain manuscript document, entitled "Observations on Early Days in California and New Mexico by Benjamin Davis Wilson A native of Nashville Tenn.—Who came to New Mexico in 1833—To California in 1841—Since prominent as a citizen, ranchero, merchant, Indian Agent, first Mayor of Los Angeles, State Senator etc etc.—Written at Lake Vineyard, Dec. 1877 from the authors dictation for the Bancroft Library," now deposited in the Bancroft Library of the University of California. That said manuscript is signed B. D. Wilson by the said deponent's grandfather, B. D. Wilson, whose full name was Benjamin David Wilson, and was dated Dec. 6th 1877.

That said B. D. Wilson dictated to the niece of the said J. de Barth Shorb, Mary Stone, afterwards Mrs. Mary Stone Watkins, now deceased, an account of said B. D. Wilson's life and adventures, which was written down by said Mary Stone.

That thereupon, said Savage copied or caused to be copied said manuscript document written by said Mary Stone. That said B. D. Wilson signed the said Savage's copy, hurriedly and without having examined it carefully. That said Savage's copy, now in the Bancroft Library, and entitled as above, is substantially correct as to facts, except one important one to wit, that the said deponent's grandfather's name was Benjamin David Wilson. That he customarily signed his name as B. D. Wilson. That Benjamin Davis Wilson is stated to be said deponent's grandfather's name in the title of said Savage's copy.

That said Savage changed or caused to be changed in his said copy some words and phrases from those in said Mary Stone's dictation. That said Savage inserted or caused to be inserted in his said copy some words, phrases and sentences, which were not found in said Mary Stone's dictation. That said Savage omitted or caused to be omitted some words, phrases and sentences, which were in said Mary Stone's dictation. That all of the foregoing caused variations in the two said manuscript documents.

That said deponent, Edith Shorb Steele, copied carefully by typewriter, the said original dictation by B. D. Wilson to said Mary Stone. That said manuscript dictation to said Mary Stone is lost or destroyed. That the said deponent carefully compared the typewritten copy she had made with the original manuscript dictation by the said B. D. Wilson to the said Mary Stone, before the loss or destruction of said manuscript dictation to said Mary Stone. That the annexed copy, which is made a part hereof, is a full, true and exact copy of said dictation by said B. D. Wilson to said Mary Stone. That said annexed copy of said dictation by said B. D. Wilson to said Mary Stone is a more nearly perfect copy of said dictation by said B. D. Wilson than the said Savage's copy, now deposited in the Bancroft Library.

Subscribed and sworn to before me,

..... Edith Shorb Steele

this 24th day of October, 1930.

Leontine E. Denson

Notary Public in and for the City
and County of San Francisco, State
of California.

THE NARRATIVE

I, Benjamin David Wilson of Nashville, Tennessee, was born December 1st, 1811. My father was born in a Fort in the Territory of Tennessee in 1772, in what is now Wilson County.

He died when I was eight years old, having lost by bad speculation, his fortune, which left his family poor.

We however were assisted to some education by our grandfather. When I was about fifteen years of age, I went into business for myself, at Yazoo City, on the Yazoo River above Vicksburg, where I kept a little trading house, to do business with the Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians.¹ My health entirely broke down, and I was told by physicians I could not live in that country, must either leave or die. Then went up the Arkansas River to Fort Smith,² an outer post then of the country. The Company I was to join did not go, for the reason that the River did not rise in time. From there I went to Missouri, joined the Rocky Mountain Company,³ and crossed the plains with them. Nothing worthy of mention occurred until we reached Santa Fe in the fall of 1833.

Being without money, I joined a trapping party, to go and trap in Gila and Apache Country for beaver.

The first year there was no event worthy of record, except that we were quite successful: explored the Gila River, and returned to Santa Fe, in the spring of 1835.

Refitted and returned at the head of a small company formed by myself. One of this party was Enoch Barnes, of Missouri, who was murdered in Los Angeles, some six years ago, by Cyrus Sanford. The first party to which I belonged, was commanded by James Kirker,⁴ an Irishman who died in California, about 1852, or 1853. I never saw him in California, but I did get a note from him, he probably left a family, for he was married to a Mexican lady in El Paso, Chihuahua. She was handsome, and a fine woman whom I saw many times.

I will now relate events connected with this expedition, and its results. The Apaches up to this time had been extremely kind and friendly to the Americans; but owing to bad treatment of their Chief Juan Jose, by the Mexicans, there was a deadly hostility existing between them, the Apaches and Mexicans, which lasted to the present day. Juan Jose was

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educated originally for the Church, and could read and write, and keep accounts, etc.

He was really quite an educated man. The Mexicans murdered his father, which prompted him to leave the whites, and place himself at the head of his people, and wage war against the Mexicans. But his relations with Americans, both traders and hunters were of the most friendly character, and he never lost an opportunity to show them his friendship. Whenever by any mistake any animals belonging to American parties were stolen by Apaches, Juan Jose would have them returned to the owners.

There was an American by name James Johnson,⁵ living and married to a native woman in Oposura, who had, during several years, been trading between that country and New Mexico, and had thus secured himself quite a competency; he had been invariably an object of friendly regard from the Apaches, and occasionally when some of his stock had been by mistake captured, the same had been returned to him. Indeed, Juan Jose, desired to maintain the best of friendly as well as uninterrupted trading relations with American hunters and traders. The Mexican Governor of Sonora, was exceedingly anxious to secure the capture and destruction of Juan Jose, who had become a terror to the Mexicans; he would send out his men and intercept dispatches, and thus keep himself well posted as to the movements of his enemies.

During the two years that I was in that country, Juan Jose was frequently in our camp and had mails brought to him to read, which had been captured by his men. We thus became informed of the military movements contemplated by the Mexican Government. That Government would not give permission to Americans, to trade or trap in their territory, we were there as interlopers, and smugglers, and would have fared badly had we fallen into the hands of their forces. Juan Jose's friendship was in every way valuable to us. Returning to my story, the Governor of Sonora, made an arrangement or promise, with James Johnson, to kill Juan Jose, whenever the opportunity occurred to do so, as it was frequent for Juan Jose, and his men to visit Johnson's camp.

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It was well known to the Governor, that the Apaches were friendly to Johnson and all Americans. Of course it was left to Johnson to effect Juan Jose's destruction, in his own way.

Juan Jose was generally hovering on the frontier with a small force of reliable young warriors, of about twenty or thirty.

Juan Jose was known not to be a fighting man, his people deemed him too valuable to allow him to expose his person in battle.

All those Gila Apaches had been Mission Indians during the Spanish Occupation, after the Mexican independence the country became disorganized, and the frontier Mexicans treated these Indians so badly, without any effort being made by the Government for their protection, that they rebelled, and from that time kept up a war-fare against everything that bore the name of Mexico. They were a civilized people, and indeed, many of them could not speak Apache, and felt a strong contempt for the wild tribes of the Apaches, known under the names of Coyoteros, Mezcaleros, and Jicarillas. The necessities of the way have since made them more friendly, and to intermarry with the others.

There was a party under Eames from Missouri, that had gone to Sonora, to purchase mules, taking with them William Knight, (the same man who gave names to "Knight's Ferry," and "Knight's Landing," on the Sacramento to act as their guide and interpreter.

The party consisted of ten or twelve men.

They were unsuccessful in their expedition, could find no mules as the Apaches had stripped the whole country.

Were returning to New Mexico, and took the route suggested to them by James Johnson, as the nearest one, through the Apache country, assuring them, that there was not the least danger from those Indians. Johnson concocted the plan of murdering Juan Jose, with a man by the name of Gleason, or Glisson, who also resided at that time in Oposura. Johnson availed himself of Eames' party, who were entirely unconscious of the plot to carry out Johnson's plans. All started together, Johnson being the guide; some days out from Oposura, near

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the Gila River, they met Juan Jose who had heard of their coming, and also, the arrangement between the Governor and Johnson, which he had obtained through some intercepted dispatches, but gave no credence to the report, as he could not believe that Johnson, whose friend he had ever been, could possibly entertain any project against his life.

In the camp he told Johnson what he had learned, and the latter of course assured him there was no foundation for the report, Juan Jose then said to him: "Don Santiago, you have never deceived me, and if you give me your word of honor that the report is false, come to my camp with your men and pass the night with us." Johnson repeated his assurance and all went to Juan Jose's camp. After arriving there, Johnson said to the Chief, that he had a sack of Pinole to give to the women and children; the sack was taken out that same evening, and Juan Jose, ordered a man to attend to the distribution of the pinole.

But all the men, women, and children collected around the sack. This was a part of Johnson's plan. Johnson had a blunderbuss secured under an aparejo, which had been brought on mule back. The weapon was loaded with balls, chains, etc. Whilst the pinole was being distributed, Gleason had invited Juan Jose to walk out to where the latter's fine mule was tied, with the pretext that he wanted to buy the mule.

The plan of Johnson and Gleason was, that the former would fire the blunderbuss into the crowd, and Gleason was to shoot Juan Jose, at the same time, with a pistol. This hellish plot was carried out to the letter, the blunderbuss was fired into the crowd, killing and maiming many. Gleason shot at Juan Jose, but did not kill him, the latter cried out to his friend Don Santiago, to come to his aid, and clenched Gleason, and had him down, with a knife drawn, when Johnson approaching Juan Jose, told him in Spanish: "For God's sake save my life, I could kill your friend, but I don't want to do it."

Johnson's only reply was, to shoot Juan Jose whilst he was over Gleason, with his drawn knife. Juan Jose fell dead on Gleason.

Thus perished that fine specimen of a man.

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I knew the man well, and could vouch for the fact that he was a perfect gentleman, as well as a kind hearted one.

After that occurrence, the party had to keep together, and fight their way back, for the Indians, by smoke and other means, had gotten together a large party, and pursued them. Whilst that villainous act of Johnson, and his accomplice was taking place, I and my party, were camped some thirty miles from Juan Jose's camp on the Gila River, and about forty miles from Charles Kemp, and his party of trappers, who were below me on the Gila.

After the Indians fought Johnson's party into Oposura they went to Kemp's camp, and killed everyone of the party, twenty-two in number. I was on march returning to Santa Fe, entirely ignorant of what had been taking place; my object being to intercept East of the settlement of New Mexico, the caravan bound to Missouri. When we arrived at the trail, discovered that the caravan had passed there two days before.

We then started with the view of overtaking them by forced marches, but were intercepted by a party of Apaches, and taken prisoners, everything we had being taken from us.

We were marched to the Apache camp, there we were given to understand that something terrible had happened between Apaches and Americans, and that the young warriors were determined to sacrifice us. We expressed our astonishment at the changed conduct of the Apaches, from whom we had ever before received so many evidences of friendly feeling.

That party did not seem to be fully informed of the causes of the change of feeling. In camp that night, the Indians kept up a war dance, to the East of the wig-wam, where the chief Mangas kept us confined. The old chief was opposed to us being sacrificed, as he said that he had received many favors from Americans, and believed it was to the interest of his people to keep up the amicable relations existing till that time.

Our party was at this moment reduced to only three, originally it was six, the rest having managed to steal off, and reach the settlements with some of the property, leaving the balance in our hands to be turned over to their friends in Missouri: of course that was before we were captured.

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Mangas had told us, that he had been doing his best to dissuade his men from destroying us, but unsuccessfully, finally at a late hour of the night, Mangas came in greatly excited, and said he had to return to his warriors, and one of us must leave, as it was the only way he could save the others. I asked my men what we should do, one, named Maxwell, had a sprained ankle, and could not walk, the other, named Tucker, was a kind of invalid, and replied, that if he was to die, it would be as well to die there, as he could not possible get to the settlements, distant one hundred and fifty miles, on foot, so it was concluded that I should go, and that forthwith, because from the Chief's intimation, the warriors were coming in a few minutes, to take us out and burn us alive, for which they had been already preparing the wood.

I caught up a small buffalo robe, threw it over my shoulders, (the Indians had stripped us of all clothing), and left.

The camp was situated at the base of a little stony mountain on the prairie. I started up the hill, and had not been out but a few moments, when I could hear a general turmoil in the camp, and the whole country soon swarmed with horsemen who had started in all directions in pursuit of me. I heard them in my rear and crept into a rent in some large rocks, where I remained perfectly still until they passed me, and I heard them all going back to their camp. The mountain was twenty miles from a deep cañon, the only hiding place in all that country.

I had therefore to get into the cañon before day-light, for in that plain, a man could be seen from the hill in the day-light, at the distance of twenty miles in all directions.

I ran and walked as hard as I could, and succeeded in getting into the cañon, just as day was breaking, got on the ledge, and sat down to rest before hiding myself as I had expected.

At day-light the plains were full of horsemen. I slid down into the deep chasm, or cut, among the vines and brush, and remained there all day without food, and what was worse, had the prospect before me of over one hundred miles to march without nourishment. The next night was also a perilous one, having thirty miles of prairie to cross, before I could get into

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the next hiding place. That night I walked the thirty miles and got into the spur of the Rockey Mountains; traveled until day-light, rested awhile, and went on into a fine looking country. I traveled all that day, and kept on after taking a little rest during the night, and when near day-light on that third night, I unexpectedly arrived at a sheep ranch that I knew nothing of.

I got there some mutton and atole. My shoes were entirely worn out. My feet bleeding. Stayed there the whole day with the herder, who had the kindness to make me a pair of moccasins out of some untanned sheep skins with the wool on them. Continued my journey until I reached the settlements, at a place called Morro, procured a pair of shoes and some food.

Finally walked in about three or four days time, the one hundred miles or upwards, intervening between that place and Santa Fe, where I arrived without money, clothing, or friends, not even an acquaintance, and perfectly worn out. Two days after, news arrived of the disaster to a party of Americans, known at that time as the Keykendall party, (pronounced Kur-kindal), about one hundred and fifty miles south of Santa Fe on the El Paso road, at a place called Point of Rocks. Someone approached me, inquiring who, and what I was, and upon giving him the required information, he told me they were seeking for someone to go out to the place of the disaster, with a party of men, bury the dead, and do any thing that circumstances might call for.

I offered my services, provided they would give me a suit of clothes, and an animal to ride. Started same evening, three or four Americans accompanied me. We had letters from the Governor of Santa Fe, to the Alcaldes *rio abajo*, to furnish us all the men we might need. Reached the scene of the disaster and found twelve dead bodies in a state of decomposition; dug a large pit, and deposited the bodies therein.

Found many burnt wagons, but nothing of value. Returned to Santa Fe, and made report. I had not been back many days, when a merchant offered me a clerkship in his store, with wages at \$25. per month and edibles, which I had to cook myself. Remained with him only three or four months.

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Whilst I was there, Dr. Gregg (afterwards the author of a work on the prairies),⁶ arrived with a large quantity of merchandise; wishing to pass on with a portion of his goods to Chihuahua, he engaged me to take charge of the rest of his goods. I attended to all his business to his satisfaction.

This brings me now to the winter of 1836-7. About this time, Mr. Eames and his party arrived from Oposura, and remained in Santa Fe over the winter. Eames lived with me during that time, he related to me all that passed in connection with Juan Jose's murder. Johnson met with the retribution that his crime deserved, he received no reward from the Mexican Government. Oposura was besieged by the Apaches so effectively that he could do no business whatever, had to sell his property, left his family there, and escaped.

He came to California, lived in great poverty, and died near Gilroy, some years later. I never met him in California, nor did I wish to come again in contact with such a wretch. His act of treachery, caused the destruction of a large number of Americans, and the Apache war has continued from that day to this. Eames' arrival in Santa Fe, brought us the first full information as to the cause of my own, Kemp's and Key-kendall's disaster.

My two men, Maxwell and Tucker, were not killed, they got away, but I never saw them again. I learned that Tucker died some years later in Texas. I also learned that Mangas, the Chief, had a row with his people, who broke his arm. He frequently visited me in Santa Fe afterwards, and in consideration of his services to me and my companions, was a pensioner of mine.

In 1837, there was a great revolution in Santa Fe; the Governor, Alvino Perez, and all his officers, and every other respectable man that had in any way been connected with the Governor were killed. Armijo,⁷ who had until that time been merely a successful sheep-man, headed the Pueblo Indians, and the New Mexican rabble, and made that revolution. After Governor Perez, the three Obrea brothers, and the rest had been murdered, the rebels went through the City with the murdered men's heads stuck on pikes, and crying, *death to the*

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Americans. Death to the Gringos. There were besides myself, about six Americans, (The deceased Major Samuel Hensley,^{*} was one of them) we shut ourselves up and remained so for six days, till the riot was over.

The rioters tried to get into our store, but the old Indian Chief Pedro Leon, who was at the head of the Pueblo Indians, and was acquainted with me, saved us by declaring to the others, that we were not in the store, so they all went away.

That time I did really expect that our life was not worth the purchase. Armijo, as soon as the rabble dispersed to their homes, and the Territory was left entirely disorganized, and without a government, issued a call for the leaders to hold a convention in Santa Fe, and on their arrival there from all parts of the Territory, he had a squad of his own satellites arrest the leading men, thirty-two in number, marched them back on the hill behind the public square of Santa Fe, and the next morning had them all shot. After that he declared himself loyal to the Mexican Government, and soon his commission as Governor of the Territory arrived. He was the man who in 1841 captured Col. Cook and his company, one of whom was Mr. Geo. Wilkins Kendall, one of the editors of the *New Orleans Picayune*.

The fellow who betrayed the Cook party,^o received no other compensation from Armijo, than a few hundred dollars and a peremptory order to leave the Territory. Armijo had promised to reward him with an office in the Custom House, but afterwards told him that he could not trust a man who had been a traitor to his own people. This I learned afterwards, from a source entirely reliable, Mr. John Rowland, who had obtained the facts from Armijo's own lips. Rowland died here in Southern California a few years ago, at the Puente Ranch, which he owned.

I remained in charge of Dr. Gregg's business, some two years, and then bought out the remainder of the goods, and remained in Santa Fe, till the Fall of 1841. Mr. John Rowland, and William Workman, who were old residents of that country, at Taos, and had been in correspondence with prominent parties in Texas, learned that a party or expedition was being

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fitted out to come and take New Mexico, as part of Texas. They were convinced that the plan might succeed, but, in the meantime, prominent foreigners in New Mexico would probably be sacrificed to the fury of the Mexicans. As it was Armijo had information that the Texans were coming. This was in the summer of 1841.

It was even whispered that we were in correspondence with the Texans. One day that Armijo was haranging his rabble to rise to a man and meet the foreigners who were coming to destroy their customs and religion, an American French Creole from near St. Louis, who was a bold gambler, named Tiboux, made some insulting remarks in a stentorous voice. This came very near being the destruction of all of us, for the whole wave of the rabble moved towards us, but fortunately Armijo called them back, promising to punish the offender. However, he was not found out, and came out to California with us in the fall. Under the circumstances, Rowland, Workman and myself, together with about twenty other Americans, including William Gordon, and William Knight,¹⁰ concluded it was not safe for us to remain longer in New Mexico.

We formed a party, and were joined by a large number of New Mexicans. In the first week in September, 1841, we started from our rendezvous in the most western part of New Mexico, a place called "Abiqui," for California, we met with no accidents on the journey, drove sheep with us, which served us as food, and arrived in Los Angeles, early in November,¹¹ of the same year.

As far as I am able to judge, Rowland, Workman, Gorden, and Knight, and most of the foreigners of our party came here with the intention of settling. I had no such idea my plan was to go to China, and from thence return home. But after three different journeys to San Francisco, in search of a ship to go to China, I arrived at the conclusion that there would be no chance for carrying out my original intention, and so I finally purchased a Ranch in 1843, called the *Jurupa*,¹² and stocked it with cattle. That place is now Riverside. In the Spring of

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1842, Mr. Rowland and myself went to Monterey, to see Governor Alvarado.

Mr. Rowland had obtained from the priest at San Gabriel, and from the Prefect of the second district, certificates, stating that there was no objection to the granting to Messrs. Rowland and Workman, the Ranch of La Puente, which they had petitioned for, as such grant would not be prejudicial to the Neophytes.

Upon the presentation of the documents to the Governor, the grant was made to the petitioners, who were entitled to the privilege under Mexican law, being married to Mexican wives, natives of New Mexico, and having made application for Mexican citizenship.

I never got any grant of land, as I would not apply for Mexican citizenship. The Jurupa Ranch I bought from Don Juan Bandini. I am under the impression that the law did not forbid the owning of land by a foreigner, provided it was at a certain distance from the sea coast. I am not sure whether it was from twenty to twenty-five miles. This was either a law or regulation issued by the Supreme Authority of Mexico.

After many unsuccessful efforts to leave California, and receiving so much kindness from the native Californians, I arrived at the conclusion that there was no place in the world where I could enjoy more true happiness and true friendship than among them. There were no courts, no juries, no lawyers, nor any need for them. The people were honest and hospitable, and their word was as good as their bond, indeed, bonds and notes of hand were entirely unknown among the natives. So as I said, I settled upon the Ranch and led a ranchero's life for some years.

In 1844 I married Ramona Yorba, a daughter of Don Bernardo Yorba, one of the owners of the Santa Ana Ranch, which had about thirty leagues of land. No event of any serious import occurred in my rancher's life, except the following, - In the fall of 1844, my ranchman reported that a large bear had been close to the ranch house, and killed one of our best milk cows.

I took an American named Evan Callaghan with me, and

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went to hunt for the grizzly. We separated, he went one path, and I went by the one leading from the cow's carcass, followed the track a few hundred yards, and it went under an elder bush, covered with wild vines. Thinking the bear had passed out on the other side and going around the bush myself, I became entangled in another bush, in that condition the bear rushed from under his cover and bounced on behind me, bringing both the horse and myself to the ground; he bit me on the right shoulder into the lungs, and once in the left hip. By this time my dogs came up and the bear left me, a vaquero was coming to me when I managed to get up, and walked a few steps into an open space. I told the vaquero to take the saddle and bridle off the horse, as I supposed it was dead, but when the vaquero approached the horse, he raised his head, looked around, sprung to his feet, and ran home at full gallop with the saddle and bridle. Upon examination he was found entirely unharmed, his instinct had told him to feign death as long as he thought the bear was thereabouts.

It is well known that the bear is not a carrion beast. I was carried home and laid upon a blanket, where I bled so that I lost my sight and speech, though I still retained the power of my senses. A few native California women came to my assistance, and by their judicious nursing, I was soon on my feet again. But I still carry on my shoulder the marks of that bear's tusks, in the form of a large hole, which can hold a walnut.

The bear in question remained on the ranch, killing cattle almost every night. As soon as I felt myself able to move around, I advised my vaquero to kill a calf, and drag it through the brush near where the bear lurked, and leave it under a certain sycamore tree. I then took a servant with me, both well armed, and repaired to the tree, at the approach of dark the bear made his appearance, and commenced eating the calf, myself and man both fired at him out of the tree, and both hit him, the bear made three attempts to climb to us, but my man's shot crippled one of his hind legs, my shot having struck him through the ribs behind the shoulder. He went away, and we returned to the house. The next morning I called all the

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neighbors, servants and dogs I could find, and went to hunt that bear.

We trailed him to a marsh after diligent search for him, and almost despairing of finding him, my attention was called to a hole in the mud no larger than a black bird, when I became satisfied it was the bears nose, I got off my horse to give him a deadly shot in the head, when he jumped out with the rapidity of lightning and made for me, who stood about twenty feet from him, he came very near catching me a second time; a general fight followed, when the beast was finally put to death.

I have mentioned this part of the occurrence, to corroborate what I have been told by others, that bears have the sagacity to seek the healing of their wounds with application of mud.

In 1845, about July or August, the Mojave and other Indians were constantly raiding upon the ranches in this part of the country, and at the request of the Governor, Don Pio Pico, who had promised me a force of eighty well mounted men, well armed, I took command of an expedition to go in pursuit of the Indians.

Organized the expedition in San Bernardino, sent the pack train and soldiers, (less twenty-two which I retained with me) through the Cajon Pass, myself and the twenty-two went up the San Bernardino River through the mountains, and crossed over to what is now Bear Lake. Before arriving at the Lake we captured a village, the people of which had all left except two old women and some children. On the evening of the second day we arrived at the Lake, the whole Lake and swamp seemed alive with bear.

The twenty-two young Californians went out in pairs, and each pair lassoed one bear, and brought the result to the camp so that we had at one and the same time eleven bears.

This prompted me to give the Lake the name it now bears.

Pursued our course down the Mojave River, before we met the balance of the command. Then all together marched down four days, was in advance with one companion some two or three miles, with the view of looking for signs of Indians.

I saw ahead of us four Indians on the path coming towards

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us, noticing that they had not seen us, I went down into the River bed, and continued on my course until a point was reached that I supposed was opposite to where they would be, and then went up on the bank again. My calculation was correct, the Indians were right opposite on the plain, and I rode towards them. I spoke to them and they answered in a very friendly manner.

My object was not to kill them, but to take them prisoners that they might give me information on the points I desired.

The leading man of the four happened to be the very man of all others I was seeking for viz: the famous maraunder Joaquin who had been raised as a page of the Church in San Gabriel Mission, and for his depredations, and outlawing, bore on his person the mark of the Mission, that is, one of his ears cropped off, and the iron brand on his hip. This is the only instance I ever heard or saw of of this kind; that marking had not been done at the Mission, but at one of its ranches, (El Chino)¹³ by the Majordomo. In conversation with Joaquin, the command was coming on, and he then became convinced that we were on a campaign against him and his people, it was evident before, that he had taken me for a traveler. Immediately that he discovered the true state of things, he whipped from his quiver an arrow, strung it on his bow, and left nothing for me to do but shoot him in self defence. We both discharged our weapons at the same time, I had no chance to raise the gun to my shoulder but fired it from my hand, his shot took affect in my right shoulder, and mine in his breast.

The shock of his arrow in my shoulder caused me to involuntarily let my gun drop. My shot knocked him down disabled, but he discharged at me a tirade of abuse in the Spanish language such as I had never heard surpassed. I was on mule back, got down to pick up my gun, by this time my command arrived at the spot. The other three Indians were making off, out over the plains. I ordered my men to capture them alive, but the Indians resisted stoutly, refused to the last to surrender, wounded several of our horses, and two or three men, and had to be killed.

Those three men actually fought eighty men in open plain,

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till they were put to death. During the fight Joaquin laid on the ground uttering curses and abuse against the Spanish race and people. I discovered that I was shot with a poisoned arrow, rode down some five hundred yards to the river, and some of my men on returning and finding that Joaquin was not dead, finished him. I had to proceed immediately to the cure of my wound.

There was with me, a civilized Comanche Indian, a trusty man, who had accompanied me from New Mexico to California. The only remedy we knew of was the sucking of the poison with the mouth out of the wound. Indeed, there is no other remedy known, even now. I have frequently seen the Indians preparing the poison, and it is nothing more than putrid meat or liver, and blood, which they dried into thin sticks, and carry in leather sheaths.

When they went on hunting or campaigning expeditions, they repeatedly rubbed their arrows with the stick, when it was too dry they softened it by holding it near the fire a little while. By the time I got to the river, my arm and shoulder were immensely swollen; at once my faithful Comanche, Lorenzo Trujillo, applied himself to the sucking of the wound which was extremely painful. He soon began reducing the swelling, and in the course of three or four days it had entirely disappeared, and the wound in a fair way of healing, it never gave me any trouble after, although there was left in the flesh a small piece of flint, which I still carry to this day. As I was unable to travel while the wound was healing, I kept with me five men of the command, and ordered the rest to proceed down the River on the campaign till they found the Indians, they went under the command of my second, Enrique Avila¹⁴, a native Californian, and resident of Los Angeles.

After an absence of over two days, they returned to my camp and reported that about ten leagues below the camp, they had struck a fresh trail of Indians, pursuing it up a rocky mountain, found the Indians well fortified in the rocks, attacked them a whole day and finally were obliged to leave the Indians in their position, and come away with several men badly wounded.

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I had to abandon the campaign, as besides the wounded men, the command had all their horses worn out. On the return by way of Bear Lake, the same twenty-two men that went with me to that lake, repeated the feat of bringing eleven bears to camp, making twenty-two killed on the trip. We all returned and had our rendezvous at my Ranch at Jurupa, a refit with new horses, provisions, etc: for another campaign. Some twenty of these men, for wounds or other causes, left and the command was reduced to about sixty. Our march this time was through the San Gorgonia [sic] Pass, where the railroad now runs, down into the Cahuilla country, our object being this time to capture two renegade San Gabriel neophytes, who had taken up their residence among the Cahuillas, and corrupted many of the young men of that tribe, with whom they carried on a constant depredation on the ranchmen of this district. Nothing of note occurred on our journey, till arriving at the head of the desert, in the place called Aqua Caliente, (Hot Springs). We were there met by the Chief of the Cahuillas, whose name was Cabezon (Big Head)¹⁵ with about twenty of his picked followers, to remonstrate against our going upon a campaign against his people, for he had ever been good and friendly to the whites. I made known to him that I had no desire to wage war on the Cahuillas, as I knew them to be what he said of them, but that I had come with the determination of seizing the two renegade Christians, who were continually depredating on our people. He then tried to frighten me out of the notion of going into his country, alleging, that it was sterile, and devoid of grass and water, and then ourselves, and our horses would perish there. I replied, that I had long experience in that sort of life, and was satisfied that a white man could go wherever an Indian went. I cut the argument short by placing the Chief and his party under arrest, and taking away their arms. He became very much alarmed, cried and begged of me not to arrest him, as he had always been a good man.

I assured him that I would avoid if possible doing him or his people any harm, but had duties to perform, and I intended carrying them out in my own way. I then sternly remarked

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to him, there were but two ways to settle the matter; one was for me to march forward with my command, looking upon the Indians I met as enemies, till I got hold of the two Christians; the other was for him to detach some of his trusty men and bring the two robbers dead or alive to my camp, he again protested, but when he saw that I was on the point of marching forward, he called me to him, and said that he and his had held counsel together, and that if I would release his brother Adan, and some twelve more of his people whom he pointed out, himself and six or seven more remaining as hostages, Adan would bring those malefactors to me, if I would wait where we then had our camp.

I at once acceded to his petition, released Adan, and the other twelve and let them have their arms.

I told them to go on their errand first asking how many days they would require to accomplish it, they asked for two days and nights. We stayed there that night, and all the next day with the most oppressive heat I had ever experienced, it was so hot that we could not sit down, but had to stand up and fan ourselves with our hats, the ground would burn us when we attempted to sit. Late the following night, the Chief called me and asked me to put my ear to the ground, stating that he heard a noise, as if his men were coming. I did as he desired and heard a rumbling noise which at every moment became clearer. In the course of an hour we could begin to hear voices, and the old Chief remarked to me with much satisfaction, that it was all right, he could tell by the singing of his men that they had been successful in their errand. I ordered thirty of my men to mount their horses, and go to meet them to see if all was right, as it was possible those Indians were coming with hostile views.

In due time horsemen came back and reported that they believed all was right. I then had my men under arms, and waited the arrival of the party, which consisted of forty or fifty warriors. Adan ordered the party to halt some four hundred yards from my camp, himself and another companion advancing each one carrying the head of one of the malefactors, which they threw at my feet, with the evident marks

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of pleasure at the successful results of their expedition. Adan at the same time showing me an arrow wound in one of his thighs, which he had received in the skirmish that took place against those two Christians and their friends. Several others had been wounded but none killed except the two renegade Christians. By this time day was breaking, and we started on our return. The campaign being at an end, left the Indians with the two heads at Agua Caliente, after giving them all our spare rations, which were very considerable, as they had been prepared in the expectation of a long campaign.

After we reached our homes and dispersed, there arrived in my Ranch of Jurupa, some ten or twelve American trappers, (it was in the same summer), I related to them how our campaign ended down the Mojave, with the defeat of my force.

They manifested a strong desire to accompany me back there; the Chief of that party was Van Duzen. I at once wrote to my old friend and companion Don Enrique Avila, to ask him if he would join me with ten picked men, and renew our campaign down the River Mojave. He answered that he would do so, *con mucho gusto*. He came forthwith and we started for the trip, twenty-one strong. Some seven or eight days after reached the field the operations, myself and Avila being in advance, we descried an Indian village. I at once directed my men to divide into two parties, to surround and attack the village, we did it successfully, but as on the former occasion, the men in the place would not surrender, and on my endeavoring to persuade them to give up, they shot one of my men, Evan Callaghan, (mentioned before) in the back.

I thought he was mortally wounded, and commanded my men to fire, the fire was kept up until every Indian man was slain. Took the women and children prisoners. While the fighting had been going on, a sad accident occurred between the two Mexican servants that had charge of the pack train and loose animals. My servant had my double barreled gun, that I had given him to carry, he handed it the other man to hold, while he was righting a pack mule, but hearing our firing he demanded of the other man to hand him the gun, which the latter declined, both men were on horseback, my man grabbed the

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gun and the other punched back at him with the breach, the hammer of the lock struck my man on the forehead just above the eye, the gun went off shooting the man that held it, and the two ball charge entered his body just below the heart, from which he died in a few hours.

After burying the dead man we found that we had to remain encamped there all night owing the suffering of our wounded, Evan Callaghan. Fortunately the next morning he was able to travel and we marched on our return home bringing with us the captured women and children. We found that these women could speak Spanish very well, and had also been neophytes, and that the men we had killed, had been the same who had defeated my command the first time, and were likewise Mission Indians.

We turned the women and children over to the Mission San Gabriel where they remained. Those three short campaigns left our district wholly free from Indian depredations, till after the change of Government. I wish to revert to my second Gila expedition, in the winter of 1835 - 6.

Myself, and expedition, six men all told, once found ourselves absolutely without anything to eat, the only result to us was great weakness. On the evening of the sixth day getting off our mules, we felt so weak that we became very much alarmed about our condition, so I had no other recourse but to shoot my faithful mule, that I had ridden over a thousand miles, it being the only animal that showed any flesh. I feel sorry about that mule yet, the killing of which occurred some forty-two years ago. On our return as before mentioned to intercept the Mission caravan, after crossing the Del Norte, at the head of *Jornada*, going eastward to the River Pecos, we had the misfortune to find no water till the fifth day at night. On the fourth day, crossing an arid sandy plain leading North to South between the two parallel mountains, we saw to the North of us in the midst of this plain a large building, which encouraged us to believe that our water trouble was at an end; we went to the building and found it to be a large Church. On the northern side of the building saw evidences that there had been on that site a very large town, the Church itself

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was built of stone, and stood almost in a perfect state of preservation, while all the other buildings had decayed. We spent the whole day looking for water without any success. Just at night I discovered on the eastern side what satisfied me were the remnants of a concrete aqueduct. Camped there that night, next morning endeavored to trace the aqueduct, which led easterly to a mountain range. Spent the whole day in tracing it, to ascertain which was the gorge it entered, believing we should find water there. Our hopes were gratified, and our terrific sufferings ended. I had already had the experience of six days without food, and five without water, and state that the suffering caused by the former bears no comparison with that of the latter. No living man unless he has had the opportunity of feeling it, or seeing it with his own eyes, could realize how much flesh a man may lose in five days without water. Every joint in our bodies ached, our eyes sunk in our heads as if we had been dead a week, and the bones seemed to be pushing through the skin. After my return to Santa Fe narrated our discovery of that building, and some enthusiastic men went in search of it, they called it the Grand Quivira.¹⁶

Those men, dug for treasure and reported that they had discovered some five miles from the buildings, a place where extensive mining operations had been carried on, by some civilized people, yet the best informed of the Mexicans could give no information on the matter. The whole thing was involved in mystery. I forgot to mention while speaking of my first expedition to the Gila country under Kirker,¹⁷ a remarkable place some twelve miles from where the Little Red River, (Colorado Chiquita) leaves the mountains; there was a village¹⁸ built on a sugar loaf mound, near the banks of the River, which left on the mind the impression that the mound was made by human hands as it was entirely alone in a perfectly plain country, within the bounds of what had been an extensively cultivated field. The zanja madre or main ditch some 12 or fifteen miles in length, was plainly visible covering a plot of ground some one thousand acres, as near as I could judge, the regaderos or cross ditches, were also

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clearly seen. In the mound several feet above the base was a row of buildings, or rather rooms, in a perfect state of preservation, and the rooms seemed to serve as the roofing. In the rooms we found a great quantities of dried corn cobs. About two miles easterly some spurs of the Sierra Madre project, and are pretty much covered with junipers, or cedars, the soil of a very red stick clay.

At the foot of these hills, our mule herders found a quantity of stone like bullets, of about the average musket ball size they brought them to us, saying that there were very large quantities of the same kind. Our curiosity led us to go and examine them for ourselves. We thought there must be wagon loads of such bullets, so great was the quantity strewn about the ground, we were thoroughly convinced that those bullets were the work of men, so many bore the appearance of having been moulded, with the necks still on. My impression is that they were moulded from red clay, and age had petrified them.

I leave a wiser man to explain.¹⁹

I will now relate the part I acted in the campaign between the Micheltorena, and California parties, in 1845.²⁰

General Micheltorena's officers and men were all well known to the people of Los Angeles, for they had been here several months before they went up to Monterey. Whilst Micheltorena, and a few of his officers were unobjectional men, there were at the time a majority, much the larger number of them, who were a disgrace to any civilization. They had made themselves obnoxious by their thefts, and other outrages of a most hideous nature. Hence, when it was announced that a revolution had broken out in the North against Micheltorena and his rabble, and that they were on their way here in pursuit of the California Revolutionists, all classes joined the movement with great alacrity, to get the country rid of what was considered a great scourge.

I was on my Ranch of Jarupa at the time, in the early part of 1845. I had been for several years, and still was acting as the Alcalde of the district. I had at first refused to accept the duties; not being a citizen of Mexico, I was not obliged to perform municipal duties, but at the request of friends and

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for my own interests, I had finally consented to act, and was acting as such Alcalde, when an order came to me from the Prefect of the District, (I think it was Abel Stearns) to summon every man capable of bearing arms in my district, and to gather every man I could find on my way into Los Angeles, I obeyed, and arrived as early as possible with some twenty or thirty men, and found on my arrival in the town great excitement, almost every man I knew, among them John Rowland, and William Workman, of La Puente, were armed and determined to do everything in his power to prevent Micheltorena, and his scum, from entering Los Angeles. All provisions were made, and ammunition prepared that night for us to march out early the next morning.

Accordingly we did all leave the town for the Cahuenga Valley, Mr. Workman had some Americans under him. We joined our forces without regard to who commanded; our joint force of foreigners, then consisted of about fifty men, determined to give the enemy a regular mountaineer reception. Although José Castro was ostensibly *Comandante General* of the forces, the brothers Pico, Governor Pico, and Andrés, had the actual control of the people of this end of the country. We arrived in the Valley of Cahuenga and Pio Pico heard that Micheltorena had camped the night before at the Encino, about fifteen miles above.

We took our position and waited the enemy's arrival, this was about noon. Both parties began firing their cannon at each other as soon as they were in sight, I think that no one was killed, or hurt; one horse I believe had his head shot off. Mr. Workman and myself, having learned, that the Americans, and other foreigners in the Micheltorena party were commanded by some of our old personal friends, and feeling convinced that they had engaged themselves on that side under misapprehension or ill advice, and that nothing was wanting but a proper understanding between them and us to make them withdraw from Micheltorena and join our party. We sent our native Californians to reconnoiter and ascertain in what part of the field those foreigners were. We soon obtained the desired information of their whereabouts. It was at once

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decided between Mr. Workman and myself that I was to approach them if possible under a white flag, as I had personal acquaintance with the leaders Captain Brandt, and Major Sam. J. Hensley²¹ who were the officers. Brandt who had been an old Army Officer in the United States service, had chief command of the foreign force.

Mr. James McKinley of Monterey volunteered to accompany me with a white flag. They were stationed in the same ravine that we were in, but about a mile above us. We succeeded in getting to the point we started for and raised our white flag, at which moment we were fired upon by cannon loaded with grape shot, but no one was hurt and we had gained our point; the Americans on the other side had seen our flag. We dropped down immediately into the ravine, and waited awhile for the coming of some one from that side Brandt, Hensley, John Bidwell, and some two or three others came to us. I at once addressed myself to them saying that they were on the wrong side of the question, and made the following statement: "We in southern portion of California are settled, -- many of you are settled and others expect to be settled. This rabble that you are with of Micheltorena's are unfriendly to respectable humanity, and especially to Americans. The native Californians, whose side we have espoused, have ever treated us kindly. If the Micheltorena rabble hold their own in this country, that will constitute an element hostile to all enterprises, and most particularly American enterprises." Captain Brandt remarked that thus far I was right and that he could see the point. But many of his young men that were with him had been induced to join Micheltorena by his promise to give them land, of which many already held deed, and how would Don Pio Pico feel towards these young men and their land grants if they aided to raise him to the position of Governor of California? I replied that in the same morning I had had a talk with Don Pico on this same subject and that he had said that the thing could be easily arranged.

Furthermore, that Don Pio was there where I could have him advised of what was going on, and he would in a few minutes join us if these gentlemen desired to see him. I was

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asked to send for Governor Pico, and he came in a few moments. I knew and so did Pico that these land questions were the point with these young Americans before I started on my embassy.

On Don Pico's arrival among us, I in a few words explained to him what the other party had advanced, and he said this: "Gentlemen, are any one of you citizens of Mexico." They answered "No." "Then your title deeds given you by Micheltorena are not worth the paper they are written on, and he knew it well when he gave them to you. But if you will abandon the Micheltorena cause, I will give you my word of honor as a gentleman, and Don Benito Wilson and Don Julian Workman to carry out what I promise you, viz: I will protect all and each one of you in the land that you hold now, in quiet and peaceful possession and promise you further that if you will take the necessary steps to become citizens of Mexico, I under my authority and the laws of Mexico, will issue to your people proper titles." He also added, that they need not hurry themselves to become citizens of Mexico, and he would not disturb them in the possession of their lands; but advised that they should become such citizens, for then their titles would be invulnerable. I interpreted to them what Pico had said, they bowed and said that was all they asked, and promised not to fire a gun against us; at the same time expressed the desire of not being asked to fight on our side, as they had marched down with the other party, to which we assented. Brandt and his companions returned to their camp. McKinley and myself went to ours, and the Governor to his head-quarters. Micheltorena had discovered (*how I don't know*) that his American force had abandoned him. He at once, about an hour afterwards, raised his camp and flanked us by going further into the valley towards San Fernando, marching as though he intended to come around the bend of the River to the City. The Californians, and we the foreigners, at once broke up our camp, came back through the Cahuenga Pass, and marched through the gap in the Felis Ranch on to the Los Angeles River till we came in close proximity to Micheltorena's camp. It was now in the night, as it was dark when we broke up our

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camp. Here we waited for daylight, and some of our men commenced manuevering for a fight with the enemy, when a white flag was discovered flying from Micheltorena's front. The whole matter then went into the hands of negotiators appointed by both parties, and the terms of surrender were agreed upon. One of which was that Micheltorena and his obnoxious officers and men were to march back up the creek to the Cahuenga Pass down to the plains west of Los Angeles, the most direct route for San Pedro, and embark at that point on a vessel there anchored to carry them back to Mexico. After that campaign we all went home perfectly satisfied with the result.

I deem it proper to record, now that I remember it, some additional names of the parties that crossed from New Mexico with us which were omitted in speaking of our journey to California.²³ Dr. J. H. Lyman, of Northampton, Mass. He stayed in California about eighteen months, returned home, and married. I saw him some three years since. He now resides in San Francisco, he brought with him his family, one member of which is a son who is also a physician. On the River Sevier, in Utah Territory Dr. Lyman and myself had stopped behind the train to fish; it was in the evening, the Doctor being with his hook and line in the water, the fish biting very well. He spoke to me that a very large fish bit at his hook and got off; just as he was talking, a ball from an Indian gun struck the ground near him. He remarked very coolly: "That fellow can't hit me so far, therefore I will stay and get this fish before I leave," and he did so.

Doctor Mead had been a practising physician in the West India Islands, and afterwards became a Bishop of one of the Protestant denominations; he was a Virginian; on his arrival in California after a sojourn of several months, he succeeded in obtaining a passage to China, where he wished to go I believe on a man of war. Doctor Campbell, an ornithologist, was a very young man at that time, but made himself, by his collection on that trip and in California, quite an enviable reputation.

He has since become a distinguished man among scientists.

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He was from Philadelphia, on a scientific expedition from some society. John Behn was a German who after-wards married in this district, where he lived many years. He died some eight or ten years since, leaving several children. Michael White, my neighbor now, an Englishman by birth, and originally a sailor, had lived and been married in California before, and had a family, he was a man of roving disposition.—Toomes, who died a few years since, lived as a rancher on the Sacramento, near Colusa, for many years; a very respectable man.

Daniel Sexton, from Arkansas, who now lives in San Bernardino County. John Reed, from Missouri, who was married in New Mexico, to a daughter of Mr. John Rowland, died a few years ago, leaving only his wife, who still lives on the La Puente Ranch.

There were others whose names I don't remember, they scattered over the country, and never made any mark. Things went on quietly in this portion of California after the departure of Micheltorena and his command.

I returned to my ranch and devoted myself almost entirely to stock raising, 'till 1846, when war was declared between Mexico and the United States, and Commodore Sloat raised the flag over Monterey. But prior to that event, the so-called "Bear Party" seized Sonoma, making prisoners of some of the officers residing there. The news of these events caused general uneasiness in this part of the country. But the excitement here culminated in the summer when the American forces were reported on the march to Los Angeles. I was still discharging the duties of Alcalde, or Justice of the Peace, in my district, when I received a communication from the Governor asking my utmost cooperation to raise forces, wherewith to repel the invaders.

I replied that I most respectfully declined, being an American citizen and not a military man. I was then menaced with arrest, if I did not comply. I gathered around me about one dozen Americans who had left town when it was unpleasant and even unsafe for them to be there at that time. I did say to some one who came to make known to me that I would either

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have to act or be arrested, I believe that it was Felipe Lugo or one of his brothers, that I would not allow myself to be arrested, and sent a message to Governor Pico, not to make the attempt to arrest me, for I would resist. But if he would consider that I was not a Mexican citizen nor a man disposed to do military duty, and allow me to remain quietly on my Ranch, I would pledge my word to be peaceable, and do no act hostile to the country.

That pledge of mine seemed to have been satisfactory, as I heard nothing more until Commodore Stockton arrived, with his squadron, in San Pedro Bay, when I received a private friendly note from Governor Pico, requesting me to come and see him, as he was desirous of holding some conversation with me.

I came immediately to Los Angeles, and waited on the Governor, who received me as usual, in the politest and most friendly manner. After the salutations, he said, "My time here as Governor, is no doubt very short. You have always been a friend of mine, and are married to a daughter of one of my warmest friends. What can I do for you?" He asked me if there was no tract of land that I would like him to grant me whilst he had, as he believed, the power to do it. I answered laughingly, declining, as I was not a citizen, to which he remarked with a laugh, that every one thought I was, even if I was not. Governor Pico went on to say, that to-morrow would probably be his last day; that he was going to leave, for he gave no credence to Castro's assertions of intending to attempt repelling the American forces.

I had frequent interviews with the governor, till the hour he left, and on my taking leave of him, he said with a smile, "You go to-morrow, meet Stockton, wherever he may be, *Y dele muchas saludes de mi parte*, tell him of my intention to abandon the country, and that I hope he will not ill treat my people." I went the next morning accompanied by John Rowland, and others, to meet Commodore Stockton, to whom I communicated the news that José Castro had broken camp and left, and Governor Pico had also departed from Los Angeles intending to make his way to Sonora. When I had given this information

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to the Commodore, he held in his hand Castro's bombastic proclamation of the previous morning, and requested me to read it to him. I read it, and assured the Commodore it had been issued by Castro to give time for his own leaving. On my way down, I was requested by one of the Dominguez, to present to the Commodore with his compliments his favorite saddle horse, equipped for the Commodore's personal use, which had been led down by Dominguez's servant. After a short conversation I invited the Commodore to mount his steed, and come with us to the City, assuring him that there would be no danger in his doing so, and his troops might march up at their leisure. We rode into town together, and had a pleasant time. His marines arrived late the same evening. Everything was perfectly quiet, and everybody seemed perfectly satisfied. All knew that Governor Pico, and General Castro, with a certain number of followers, were on their way out of the country. The natives had dispersed, and retired to their usual avocations.

I remained a few days about the town in Los Angeles, visiting the Commodore frequently, and rendering him such friendly services as were in my power. On my last visit to him before leaving for my ranch, I told him that I had done all I could for him, and must go to look after my private affairs. He answered with some seriousness, laying his hand on my shoulder, (Stockton was a politician as well as a soldier) - "I don't think we ought to place too much reliance on Castro's actual leaving for Sonora, he may go to Sonora, or he may go only to the frontier, and await for a rabble of Sonoranians, to come back and retake the country, and it is my duty as Commander, and for the interest of the country, that I should have someone on the frontier watching events." He added, "That, upon inquiry, my friends had told him that I was the proper man to perform that important service," I replied, assuring him of my willingness to do all in my power to meet his views, but that I was a civilian, and did not wish to engage in military service. He laughingly said, "That is nonsense. You have a Ranch on the frontier, there is no other person in whom I can trust who knows the people or understands their

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language, therefore accept a Captaincy from me, and make up your own company of as many men as you please." He knew there were many Americans hereabouts that I could bring into service.

I replied to him that if he would give me his promise verbally, that I should not be required to leave this district where my family and interests were, I would then accept his commission, and do the services he required to the best of my ability. He directed me to stay over another day, and pick up as many men as I could find fit to enlist, and he would have my commission made out at once. I did remain over, got some fifteen men, reported to the Commodore, and he handed me my commission as Captain. I assured him that I would be able to fill up the company to at least twenty or thirty men. I left for my Ranch Jurupa with my squad, and on the road increased the number to twenty-two.

I did not see the Commodore again till he returned to Los Angeles, after the actions of the 8th and 9th of January 1847.

On my arrival at home I reported that I had availed myself of all information, and learned positively that José Castro, had crossed the River at Yuma, with a small squad, and had gone into Sonora. The Commodore answered that he was going to depart, as he did not think there was any danger of disturbances, and would leave Lieutenant Gillespie²⁴ with a small force in Los Angeles to whom I could communicate anything worthy of being reported. I concluded that as there was nothing for me to do around my place and having the men on my hands, I would go further up the frontier and have friendly palaver with some Indians that I knew. I went to the mountains after visiting those Indians, and instructed them to keep a lookout and advise me forthwith if they saw any movements of troops and all about them. We went upon our hunt in the mountains; after a few days hunting and shooting, a messenger arrived with a letter from Mr. David W. Alexander, and John Rowland, advising me that they were on my ranch, having fled from the Pueblo, and from their homes with others, that there was a general revolt of the Californians and Mexicans, against Gillispie and all Americans, and that

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there was the devil to pay generally, and to hasten down. Received the information in the evening and started at once. Marched all night and arrived at the Jurupa by daylight. Found there Alexander, Rowland, Rubidoux and others. They verbally detailed all occurrences to the time of their departure from Los Angeles, that Gillespie's course towards the people had been so despotic and in every way unjustifiable that the people had risen to a man against him. I also had letters from Gillespie summoning me to come as fast as I could to his aid. He had established very obnoxious regulations to annoy the people, and upon frivolous pretexts had the most respectable men in the community arrested and brought before him, for no other purpose than to humiliate them as they thought. Of the truth of this I had no doubt then, and have none now.

The people had given no just cause for the conduct he pursued, which seemed to be altogether the effect of vanity and want of judgement. When I met Alexander and Rowland, I mentioned the fact that in the mountains we had wasted most of our ammunition. That reminded them that they had a letter for me from Col. Williams of the Chino Ranch. On opening this letter I saw that Williams had invited me to come to his place with my men, assuring me that he had plenty of ammunition. We at once saddled up and in great haste repaired to the Chino. On our arrival Williams advised me that an officer and some soldiers of the California Brigade had just been there and taken all the ammunition he had. I then called all my men to hold counsel and told them that we had little ammunition to fight or stand a seige and in my judgement it was best that we should go to the mountains and make our way to Los Angeles by following the edge of the mountains, when we found ourselves threatened by a superior force. But the majority of them being new in the country had a very contemptible opinion of the Californian's courage and fighting qualities and seemed to be of the unanimous opinion that a few shots would suffice to scare away any number of them that should come to attack us, they seemed to hint that any attempt on my part to avoid meeting the Californians face to face would be deemed by them as an evidence of lack of courage in

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me, I remarked that I hoped they had not underrated the natives but in obedience to their opinion I would remain with them, and as we were all volunteers, would not attempt to exercise any authority over them, and that we would see where the real courage was. I then called Col. Williams to one side and asked him if he had any trusty men in whose charge I might send a letter to Captain Gillespie. He answered in the affirmative, one Feliz Gallardo, whom he would have there in a few minutes. I wrote a short note to Gillespie, informing him of all that had happened; the conversation I had with my men, the scarcity of ammunition, and the almost certainty that I could not come to his assistance. I told Williams to give the Mexican a pair of new shoes, I had the outer sole ripped, put my letter inside, and the sole resewed, then directed the man to go as fast as he could to Los Angeles, and not to take off his shoes till he got to Gillespie's quarters; all of which he promised to do faithfully. After he had ridden off some hundred of yards, Williams called loudly to him and made him stop and walked towards him. Gallardo always affirmed afterwards to me that Williams in that conversation used threats to him to report him if he did not deliver my letter to Captain Flores, the Commander of the Mexican forces with his, William's compliments, as an evidence of his loyalty to the Mexican Government. Gallardo obeyed Williams and not me, and carried my letter to Flores. This was on the 26th day of September, 1846, in the evening. Very soon there appeared from eighty to one hundred men on horseback. Some of my ascertain who these men were, and their number. Callaghan soon returned with a broken arm, stating that as soon as he approached the Californians, several shots had been fired at him, one of which struck him on the arm. He added that among the Californians he had seen one of the Lugo Brothers, who was apparently commanding, and I believe it was Jose del Carmen Lugo²⁵ one of the owners of San Bernardino. On Callaghan's return the night was closing in on us. I suggested once more to my men if it would not be more prudent that we should march out whilst we had the opportunity under the cover of the night, they answered, "No! We can whip all they

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can bring against us." So we had to wait the coming events, keeping guard, etc. At break of day we found ourselves almost surrounded by cavalry. We were in the house which was old adobe built in the usual Mexican style, with a patio inside entirely enclosed by rooms, with only one large door for over three hundred feet long, and had on the northern side only two or three windows. There was a knoll on the west side on which the Californians were arranging their plan of attack.

As they moved from there in their divisions, we had no chance to fire but two or three shots apiece, (we had no breach loaders or repeaters) before the larger portion of them were under the protection of our walls. They immediately set fire to the roof, which was made of cane covered with asphaltum, fire was applied in several places. The Californians were in position where we could not see them, neither could they see us, but awaited the result of the fire. The house burnt rapidly with a great deal of smoke and bad odor. As soon as they were satisfied that the fire would soon force us out of the building, the Commander of the party, Cerbulo Varela,²⁶ came to the main door which was closed and barred, and called me by name, I went to the door where I could be near enough to converse with him through it. On asking him what he wanted, he inquired if I knew who he was, and I answered, "Yes, Cerbulo Varela." He then told me he commanded those men and wanted me to surrender to him, assuring me of his friendly disposition in these words, "You know I am your friend, neither you or any of your friends shall be injured," - adding that as an old soldier he knew what were the laws of war respecting the treatment of prisoners. I informed my men at once of what Varela said, and they unhesitatingly answered that if he would send his men away, they would come out and deliver their arms. He assented saying that he would send his men to the rear to put out the fire, whilst we marched out forward. We threw the broad door open and marched out, Cerbulo directed us to stack our arms against the walls, and we did so. We were then ordered to another building distant about four hundred yards to the south, belonging to the same Ranch^b, and called *Casa de la Matanza*. During the fighting,

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Williams, the owner of the Ranch, sent his three children (one boy and two girls) up a ladder, following himself with a white flag, and proclaiming his loyalty to the Mexican Government, at the same time crying out, "Don't shoot me, don't shoot me." One of the Californians then hallooed out "Carajo, porque no hablas en lengua que sete entiende, porque no dices, no me maten?" [Fool! Why don't you speak in a language you understand? Why don't you say 'don't kill me'.] Some of the Californians called him *cobardo* [coward]. These things we could hear from the inside. Varela ordered us all to be mounted, I being allowed to keep my own horse and saddle, and to ride by Varela, while the others were ordered to march forward in charge of the second command, Diego Sepulveda. We all started, the Californian Chief saying that they had to be in town that evening. Varela, the Commander, remained back talking with some persons, I at his side, the rest went on and were about half a mile ahead. We then followed slowly along. About one half mile from the house, these men who were in charge of the prisoners made a sudden halt, which attracted the attention of Varela; he put spurs to his horse telling me that some deviltry was going on there, and to follow him. As soon as he got near enough to make himself heard, he gave the command to stop. The prisoners had all been placed on one side for the purpose of shooting them. But Varela rode up quickly and placed himself between his command and the prisoners, declaring that he would run his sword through the first man that attempted to touch a hair of the prisoners, that he had given his word as a gentleman, and as a Commander, to save the lives of the prisoners, and if they wanted to shoot any one, they might shoot him; his voice was stentorian, his deportment very gallant, and his conduct on that occasion made him worthy of our admiration and respect. And although in later years he became very much dissipated and really a vagabond, that conduct of his met with recognition from all Americans who knew him.

On many occasions when he was arrested for breaking the peace, some American would immediately pay the fine and thereby obtain his release; he was never permitted to be in prison.

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We all arrived that evening on the Mesa south of town, now known as Boyle's Height, without any further occurrence, except the suffering and groans of my poor wounded men.

I forgot to mention that in the fight at the Ranch, one Californian named Carlos Ballesteros, a very good man and one who had ever been among my best friends, was killed outright whilst charging on the house walls; half a dozen or more were wounded, two of them very badly. Among my men I have mentioned Isaac Callaghan, Joseph Perdue, Mat. Harbin, William Skene (an Austrian) were also wounded, Perdue and Skene very badly.

The only names beside my own that I can now remember as belonging to our party are: D. W. Alexander (living), John Rowland (dead), Isaac Callaghan (dead), Evan Callaghan (dead), Joseph Perdue (dead), Mat Harbin (living in Northern California), Geo. Walters (living at Los Angeles), Michael White (living in San Gabriel), William Skene (killed in California), and Lewis Rubidoux (dead).

In "Boyle's Height" we were all placed in a small adobe room. The first thing after we were placed in there, a priest came in bearing a large cross, and after salutations, asked if any amongst us wished to confess. Rubidoux, who was huddled in a corner answered, "Yes, I do," Adding, "My God men they are going to shoot us, the priest's coming in a sure sign." The priest understanding some English remarked, "My mission amongst you has nothing to do with the Government's intention in regard to you. I heard that some of you were badly wounded, and I did not know but some might be in jeopardy; for this I came to tender my services." This quieted our men, and Rubidoux sat down again. Immediately after the priest left our room, I was instructed to walk out of the room; that the *Comandante General* (Flores) wanted to see me. As I went out I met him, and we walked to one side and sat down.

He addressed me as if he felt the importance of his position, saying in a mandatory voice to me. "I desire that you address an open letter to Captain Gillespie, (who was then encamped on Fort Hill back of town) informing him of what

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you have seen, that you and your men are prisoners. Say to him that General Flores is a Christian as well as a soldier, and wishes to avoid the spilling of blood unnecessarily; that my men are very anxious to attack him, and one charge from them would cause the destruction of himself (Gillespie) and all his soldiers."

That was true, for many of the old Californians who had been ill treated by Gillespie, felt revengeful. Flores' position to Gillespie, as conveyed in my letter, was that he would allow him to march out the next morning unmolested by any Californian forces, and to proceed to San Pedro, carrying their arms, and there embark. Flores demanded an immediate answer adding that if the answer was in the negative, he would not be responsible for the consequences. I believe, that if Gillespie had refused the terms, he would have been attacked that night, for a large portion of the Californians were drinking deeply, and expressing themselves against Gillespie personally. His answer accepting the terms, came back early the same night. Flores had directed me to state in the same note, as coming from myself, my own impression as to the state of things. I had done so, giving Gillespie my conviction that it was for the interest of himself and all Americans in the country, whether prisoners or not, that he should accede to Flores' demands, and leave forthwith. Gillespie then left early the next morning, which must have been the 28th of September.

Myself and associates were marched into town, and placed in a building then standing on the site now occupied by Saint Charles Hotel, on Main Street.²⁷ On my being placed there, a Doctor was for the first time allowed to attend to our wounded, Doctor Richard Den,²⁸ was the physician, and he is still living in Los Angeles. An old Spaniard named Doctor Eulogis Celis,²⁹ whose widow and family now reside in Los Angeles, came to our prison where we had no comforts, no beds, blankets or clothing.

He saluted me whom he knew very well, and cast his eyes around as if he were counting the prisoners, saying but few words, went away and returned in a few minutes with two or three servants loaded with blankets, clothing and other articles for our comfort.

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I think he gave me one suit of clothing, and two blankets to each man, and then broke out looking at me, "*Carajo*, these fellows must all chew tobacco." He then ordered one of his servants to go and fetch him a box of tobacco, "para que lo coman" (For them to eat).

Looking around and noticing that the men who guarded us seemed to consider us as so many criminals, Celis delivered a severe rebuke to them, asking if they were barbarians to treat prisoners of war as criminals, that only barbarians did so, that civilized warfare demanded that prisoners of war should be kindly treated. It is a satisfaction for me to state these facts of one, who although not of our nationality, had the courage as well as humanity to stand for us, whilst several of our own countrymen who were close around us did not even come to see us.

Gillespie and his men being gone, as the Californians thought their country rid of all Americans but ourselves, who were prisoners in their hands, Flores, the Commander, and many of the prominent ones came in and manifested great friendship to us personally; saying if I would sign for myself and men, a parole of honor that none of us would again take up arms, or use our influence in any way, during the existence of hostilities between Mexico and the United States, they would then and there give us our liberty. I replied that I would accept the offer, provided the condition was added, that our obligation should not go beyond such time as we were exchanged. They would not agree to it and we remained prisoners. In the course of a few days we fully expected our release through the arrival of Captain Mervin,³⁰ in the U. S. Sloop of War, at San Pedro. Soon after our hearts were all made light by hearing the firing of cannon in the direction of San Pedro, but that was of short duration, for in the evening we learned, that a force under Captain Mervin, including Gillespie and his command, had attempted to march to Los Angeles, been defeated and forced to retreat, and to return on board his ships.³¹

The deportment of General Flores, towards prisoners now changed entirely, and in a few days we heard of the hellish plot conducted by Flores, and Henry Dalton, (whose wives

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were sisters) to send us as prisoners and trophies to Mexico, having its conception in Dalton selling the remnants of an old store to Flores as Commander in Chief, for the pretended purpose of clothing the soldiers, and Flores giving to Dalton, drafts for large amounts against the Mexican Treasury. Dalton was to go in charge of the prisoners and others, to present us to the Governor of Mexico as evidence of Flores' great military achievements. William Workman, of La Puente Ranch, an Englishman, having heard of the plot, at once came into town, and determined to defeat the villainous plot. He at once put himself in communication with the leading Californians, among the most prominent of whom was Don Ignacio Palomares, using the line of argument that if they stood by and allowed us and others to be sacrificed to the cupidity of Flores and Dalton, they would be held by Americans responsible in the future; that all Flores and his accomplice would have to do would be to flee the country when the hour of danger came, and the Californians would be left to bear the whole brunt. The Californians saw through the thing, and resolved to undo the plan, they at once organized a revolution against Flores, and when everything was made ready with the utmost secrecy, one night Flores' headquarters was attacked, the Californian side being led by Workman, Palomares, and other prominent Californians. The whole plan was known to us previously, hence we, during the firing with cannon and small arms in the streets, which was kept up for many hours, were in the greatest anxiety, as our fate hung on the result. At a late hour in the night, the firing ceased. Workman rushed into our prison bringing us the glad tidings that Flores was a prisoner, and in irons, and his and Dalton's plot broken. The next day Palomares who was now virtually Commander took us out of prison, furnished us horses, and we all went to the Mission San Gabriel, where we remained several days breathing fresh air. A compromise was made by the Californians and Flores, for the former to again recognize the latter as Commander in Chief upon written conditions that we were to be treated as prisoners of war, with humanity, and not to be sent out of the country. We then went back to

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the prison in town, but were thereafter treated with more kindness, and allowed altogether greater liberty, indeed we were permitted to arrange for our food at the respectable house of Don Luis Arenas. Things went on smoothly for a short time, then news arrived that Commodore Stockton was coming with a powerful force, and with determination to put a stop to all further resistance on the part of the people there. One day Don Antonio José Carillo,³² who was temporarily in immediate command of the Mexican forces around Los Angeles, came to our prison, and made known to me a plan that he had in his mind to take us all to Temple's Ranch, (Cerritos, now owned by Bixby & Co.) We all marched down to said Ranch. This was I believe, early in November, 1846. After arriving there, Carillo took me aside and said that he had now a good deal to talk to me about; he began by saying that they knew that Stockton would soon be in with his ships, and that he felt very unfriendly to many of the Californians for their revolt; then he uncovered to me the following scheme. That when Stockton should reach San Pedro and begin to land his forces, I have brought you down here, and will take you personally and place you on the Mesa of San Pedro Landing, you will there remain alone with a Sergeant, when I want you to raise a white flag I will signify it to you by sending you the order. You will bear this message to the Commodore from me, that I hope no more blood will be shed on either side during the pendency of the War in Mexico, when the fate of this country must be decided upon. You can bear personal testimony to the Commodore that American interests in this country are safe, and that on my part I wish to make him this proposition. That I will guarantee as a gentleman and an officer, and as one who has the power to enforce it, that all Americans and their interests shall be duly protected in this district. That he, the Commodore, may land and take all his supplies needed for his forces, and hold the sea and landings unmolested.

Ask him in the name of humanity not to march forces through the country, as this would cause the spilling of blood, and engender bad feeling between two people who in all

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probability will have to live together." I was to depart and return with the Commodore's answer, either written or verbal, under my parole, pledging myself not to give any information beyond the message I was instructed to deliver. In accordance with this arrangement, I was placed under charge of a Sergeant, and carried to the place designated, near the old San Pedro Landing, on the Mesa, where I was to await Carrillo's orders. On our way we passed Carrillo's command, of some four or five hundred men all mounted. Where they seemed to be collecting on Dominguez's Ranch, all the scattered horses they could secure; they already had a large number together. The Sergeant and myself having stationed ourselves several hours in passing through the gap which was kept up by turning to the left as they went through the gap, down a short distance where there was a low depression in the same hills, and passing back through this depression or gap, going as above, I looked back in the gap where the road leads through from the Palos Verdes to San Pedro Landing, and saw an immense dust raised by a large *caballada* mixed with mounted soldiers. This immense band of horses and cavalcade, occupied up again to the same gap, and passing through again. This gave the impression and appearance of an immense mass of mounted cavalry, as no one at a distance could distinguish horses through the dust, if all had riders or not. At the time I took my position, I could see that the Commodore's flagship was loading boats with war materials, which boats, some four in number, left the ship's side, and came ashore crowded with marines. By the time that the cavalcade stopped its manoeuvres. The boats were signalled, as we supposed from the ship, for they all returned to her, leaving nothing on shore.

As soon as everything was reshipped, the frigate lifted her anchors and put to sea. I have seen it stated in a book which purported to give the lives and acts of American Commodores, that Stockton landed at San Pedro, marched with his marines three miles to Palos Verdes, there met the Californians, with his well trained eye fired at them several shots, and slew a number, (how many he could not tell, as their friends carried them away), but having no cavalry, he thought it imprudent

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to advance into the interior without it, and concluded to go to San Diego, and there improvise a cavalry force. The whole thing is a fabrication, I assert from personal observation, that Stockton did not land, but that four of his boats came to the water's edge, and returned to the frigate without having effected a landing at all. The Commodore did good and gallant service, and his fame needs no fictitious aid. Carrillo then sent orders to the Sergeant to bring me where he was. He saluted me saying that he had deceived himself in endeavoring to make a demonstration to Stockton of his forces, in order to receive favorable response, in other words, he had made too great a demonstration, and driven Stockton away. Therefore, there was nothing left for me to do but go back to my Ranch prison. We remained there over night and the next day came to town, and went again into our prison. We had now the prospect before us of a long monotonous imprisonment. But excepting the fact that we had to sleep in prison, we were allowed every other liberty, and treated with uniform kindness by the natives. I omitted to mention the fact, that when I arrived in Los Angeles, by order of Governor Pico, at the time of the advance of General Micheltorena in 1845, Abel Stearns, was acting as Prefect of the District. The town as I said was in great excitement and Mr. Stearns seemed to realize fully the necessity of repelling the Micheltorena crowd, and not allow them to enter the city. He showed himself extremely active, spoke very encouraging words, intimating that on the next morning he would put himself at our head, and march us on to victory. On the next morning we saw Don Abel, at daylight, mounted on his favorite steed, still using energetic words. "Mount boys, and go, there is no time to loose." So we all paraded before his house, ready to march and supposed he was to command us. But he came out saying to us, "March ahead, I will soon overtake you." We saw no more of the Prefect, till after the embarkation of General Micheltorena, when he returned back to his home in town, saying that he had received a message from his Ranch Alamitos, that demanded his immediate presence there, and he had been unable to return till now. I will here add, that during the

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whole time of our subsequent imprisonment, Mr. Stearns never deigned to give us even a sign of recognition. Our life was now a monotonous one, the campaign ground had been established by both parties in San Diego County. Nothing worthy of mention happened in Los Angeles. We had reports that Col. Fremont, was marching with a battalion from the North, and Commodore Stockton, would soon come up from San Diego. Then we heard that Kearny, had arrived from New Mexico and been badly defeated at San Pasqual.³³

These events bring us down to the Sixth of January, 1847, on which day, Don Andres Pico, and other prominent Californians came to our prison and said, "All our troops march tomorrow to meet Commodore Stockton, and General Kearny, who are near Santa Ana, on their way up, you must give your parole and leave your prison for your own safety, as we have no spare force to guard you, or to protect you from the rabble" Pico added, that the next morning early he would bring the two *blancos*, one for Mr. Rowland, and one for myself; these two horses were considered the fleetest in the country. We promised to make all ready for the next morning to disperse. He bought us the two horses, fully equipped the next morning in person; the one intended for me had on his fine silver mounted saddle and bridle, silver spurs, etc., remarking as he handed me the bridle, "Take this horse, and you will be perfectly safe, there is no other horse in the country that can overtake you, if I fall in battle give it to my brother Don Pio." I expresed sympathy for him, mentioning the hope that he would take no extraordinary risks. He replied jocosely, but with tears in his eyes, "No hay cuidado, prefiero que la posteridad diga, aqui arranco Don Andres y no Murio." ["It doesn't matter. I prefer posterity to say, 'Here fell Don Andres. I will not die.'"] Mr. Rowland and myself mounted on our horses, the other men went and scattered themselves among the various vineyards, so as not to be seen in the streets. My family was in Santa Ana, at my wife's father Don Bernardo Yorba's, and Mr. Rowland's, at the La Puente, we joined our respective families that same day. On my way down I passed the American forces, but avoided speaking to them, or anyone on the route. Knowing that on

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the 8th, the contending forces would meet one another near the San Gabriel River, I came back skirting the hills of the Coyote Ranch, before I could get a view of the two armies. Remaining in view as long as the fight lasted, saw there had been nothing decisive except that the Californians rather gave way. Rode back to the Rancho where I remained all night. The day of the Fight (the 8th) a portion of the Californians made a charge and seemed for a time to have broken the American lines, which gave me much alarm. But as soon as the dust cleared away, I saw the Californians retreating, and from what I learned afterwards. had the charge been simultaneous of all the Californian forces, the American lines would have been broken, and there is no telling what the end might have been. Our forces rallied and closed ranks. The Californians retired over a hill shortly distant. I knew from the position of the two forces that the fight would be resumed the next morning. The Americans camped that night on the field of that day's fight. The ninth of January, I started out to view the fight but on my way out, I met some Californians, friends of mine and relations of my wife, whom I knew had been in the action of the preceding day. They told me that in the morning, Flores and his Mexicans had refused to continue the fight, confining themselves to firing a few guns, and that they were running away to Mexico by way of San Gorgonio Pass, inviting all that wished to follow them. Hearing that news, I made up my mind to spend the day in the hills back of La Puente Ranch, and wait for the night to come into Los Angeles through La Puente where I could obtain some definite news. But, that night it rained in perfect torrents, the night was black as pitch, and I had lost my way; I had no other recourse but to sit on my horse and wait for daylight. Early in the morning I went to the house of Mr. William Workman. After waking him up and having some conversation, he told me that there were two very important persons in one of his outhouses, with some followers, he could not tell who or how many. We talked a great deal in a few minutes and Mr. Workman told me that those persons were Monterey men, and I would probably know them. Workman felt in doubt about

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the condition of things, whether it would be safe for me to see them or not, or how far he would be compromised by harboring them. We did not as yet know the actual results of the fight, and of course, were unable to foresee future events. The information I had the day before, was not such as I could give entire weight to as none of the men that communicated it were officers of note, though men of character that would not knowingly deceive me. I then asked Mr. Workman, (as I was still a prisoner on parole) to go and speak to them himself, learn their names, ask them if the fighting was really over, what had been the result, and where were Flores and his Command. Workman did so, and returned in a few minutes, confirming what I had learned the day before from my own friends, and that Flores and his Mexican forces, (two or three hundred perhaps) were by forced marches, going out of the country. That the two chief men there harbored were the La Torre brothers. I then concluded there was no impropriety in my seeing them, and asked Mr. Workman to let us go and have an interview with them. Mr. Workman went to the room where the Torres were, and told them Don Benito Wilson, wished to see them. They came out remarking that above all, I was the man they wanted to see. We met, had a warm salutation, and shaking of hands, for I had been on very intimate terms with Joaquin and Gabriel de la Torre, in Monterey. I said: "Is it possible these are my friends Joaquin and Gabriel?" They, like myself, had been out in the rain the night before, and we all looked like so many drowned rats. I hastened to make inquiries of them about the state of matters as they understood it. They reported that on the morning of the Ninth, after the skirmish and retreat of Flores, they accompanied him all that day, till night came on still on the march. They, and a few of their friends, all Californians, fell out under cover of night, and made a hasty retreat to La Puente, adding that they would rather be shot at in California than go to Mexico. They begged me to go to town in person, and intercede for them with Commodore Stockton. I said, "No, I am sick of this thing, I have been in prison three months, and want to see an end to this trouble." I was clearly of the

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opinion that the best course to pursue was for them, the brothers Torre, to mount their horses and come with me to Town. I called Mr. Workman in English, requesting him to encourage that of mine, which he did. The two brothers ordered their horses immediately and had them saddled. They gave some directions to their comrades, and sent some messages to their families in Monterey, in case they were shot, for they really expected such might be their fate. After a good warm breakfast, the two brothers and myself started for Los Angeles they having left their arms with their friends. It took us the whole day to reach Los Angeles, where we could have gone in a couple of hours, in consequence of the constant apprehensions manifested by them at almost every half mile, and resolve not to deliver themselves to be shot. At every stopping I had to argue the question again and again, assuring them that the course advised by Mr. Workman and myself was the safest one for them. Finally arrived in town; they were still in great fear. I succeeded in getting them dismounted, and to the foot of the stairs of the house where Commodore Stockton had his quarters. The Commodore was yet Commander in Chief, the command had been conceded to him by General Kearny, in consideration of the great services he had already rendered in California, and for other reasons. Stockton, on or about the third day after his arrival in Los Angeles, went away to rejoin his flagship, the Congress, at San Pedro, to which port he had ordered her from San Diego. Kearny then assumed the chief command. I went up and saluted Stockton, being the first time I had met him after the day when he commisioned me as a Captain, told him in a few words the condition of things, and informed him there were two men more important than I was, at the foot of the stairs who were anxious to see him. He asked me who they were, and I gave their names; he then tried to put on a stern countenance, but I could detect under the frown a look of satisfaction at having these two important persons again at his mercy. He replied to me: "Let them come up." I went to the foot of the stairs, and requested them to come up. They showed considerable anxiety to know how the Commodore felt towards them. I

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said that *I thought* all was right, although he had not said so. We went up together to the Commodore's presence. The Commodore stood up and saluted them but showed a good deal of sternness in his demeanor, but not more than was proper for him to show. Some hasty allusion was made to the past, and the two brothers begged the Commodore not to mention those particulars, that they knew their position, had violated the laws of war (in breaking their parole,) and were there at his mercy. The Commodore then said very sternly. "You have given me a great deal of trouble, but neither the Government of the United States, nor myself wish to treat harshly the native Californians. Can I rely upon you if I again give you your liberty?" They emphatically answered, "Yes, we are tired of the war, and have paid dearly for our errors." Stockton then asked, "Will you proceed at once to Monterey, your homes, if I give you passports, and allay some existing discords threatened up there?" They said, "Yes, sir, and we will neither stop to sleep or eat on the way, if you so order us." The passports were then and there issued to them, and they departed that same evening for Monterey. I never saw them again, but I understood that they fulfilled all their pledges, and were ever after during their life time good and loyal citizens. In the meantime we heard that Andres Pico and the small force under him had met Colonel Fremont, at San Fernando, where he made capitulation, and delivered up his arms. This gave rise to no little dissatisfaction to Commodore Stockton and General Kearny. On the 11th, learning that Andres Pico was in the upper part of town, I repaired there, and on the way up, met a man with a message for me from Don Andres. I was still riding his favorite *Blanco Chico*. Found Pico, and in answer to his anxious inquiries gave him all the news, particularly that relating to the Torre brothers. He informed me that he had capitulated to Fremont, but still showed himself conscious of the fact that there were men of higher rank than Fremont in town and insisted after the good fortune the Torres had met with, I should accompany him to the Commodore which I did. On arriving at the Commodore's quarters, the Commodore did not hesitate to give Don Andres

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to understand and very positively that neither his (Pico's) nor Fremont's course were in order, as he Pico, after the fight of the eighth and ninth, and being enough of a military man to know his duties, and be aware to whom he should surrender had gone out of his way to surrender to a subordinate officer, and not to the Commander in Chief. It was generally known that Fremont had designedly delayed on his way from Santa Barbara, by taking circuitous routes on the mountains, so as to keep himself out of danger from the Californians. Commodore Stockton had sent dispatches to him by one Daniel Sexton and others at great risk to the carriers, through the Mountains, urging him to hurry his march and meet him south of Los Angeles with his command. The Commodore did not expect that with his few marines and sailors, and a handful of volunteers he could withstand the whole force of the Californians, who were probably the best horsemen in the world and all mounted on fine horses, probably the finest cavalry horses in the world at that time; for their fleetness, endurance and easy management by the riders. Daniel Sexton, whom I have mentioned above, went from San Diego on foot with a knapsack on his back to near San Buenaventura, where he met Fremont. To fulfill his mission he had to travel on foot, through mountains, some two hundred miles, occupying about ten days. All this trouble and suffering, as well as those of others, went for nothing as Fremont made no effort to comply with the Commodore's wishes. Commodore Stockton was exceedingly angry with Fremont's conduct, from beginning to end, and particularly to Don Andres, who had unfortunately got himself into the false position of ignoring his undoubted authority. Don Andres felt humiliated and tried to apologize. The Commodore who was generous as he was gallant, said to him, "Whilst I do not recognize any authority, or even justification in Fremont, for making to you the pledge appearing in his agreement at San Fernando, I, as Commodore in Chief, say to you, that we do not wish to have any ill feeling shown to any one, and much less to the natives of California, who in all probability will have to be citizens of our common country, and in that spirit I will make known,

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that if you have to come in real earnest, and in good faith to yield and surrender yourself and comrades, there will be no punishment for past acts." I may not have given above, the very words used by the Commodore, but I am certain that I have given the substance of what he uttered.

I should have mentioned before, that almost before the salutations had been gotten through, between the Commodore and Don Andres Pico, the latter manifested his good faith by telling the Commodore, where the cannon was concealed, with which he had fought at the action of the eighth and ninth. The Commodore asked me what kind of cannon they were, I told him they were common short heavy cast iron guns, to which he answered that they were not worth looking after, and would not send for them. I told him then, that if he would give them to me I would make them posts to keep the carretas off the entrance to my store. He gave them to me, and being told by Don Andres where they were, I hired a man with a *carreta* to bring them in and place them at the head of Commercial Street, in the City of Los Angeles, where they may be seen to this day.³⁴ At that interview, Commodore Stockton told Pico to go among his people and keep them orderly, assuring them that they would receive no harm at the hands of the Americans if they conducted themselves peaceably and minded their business. "What I have already done to you, and to your brother officers should be received as sufficient evidence that we mean well by you," or words to that effect. He directed me to mount my horse, go among the people, ascertain what was going on and if everything was quiet. I did so, and returning in the evening reported that all was quiet, and that it was reported that Fremont was marching with his force towards the Mission of San Gabriel, where he purposed to encamp. Up to this time Fremont had not reported to Stockton. The streets were full of rumors that Fremont did not intend to recognize the superiority of Stockton or Kearny. When I reported these things to the Commodore, he broke out, "What does the damned fool mean?" He then had a few words of conversation with me, and said, "I must go away, I am in an unpleasant position, and only by courtesy of

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General Kearny, the Commander in Chief." He felt that he was the head officer as long as he remained because Kearny had told him, "As long as you are here, you are Commander in Chief, after you are gone, I will be." He gave me to understand that if he was to remain he would bring Fremont to terms, but as he was to leave the next day, he would let Kearny settle the matter with Fremont. The latter was still claiming to be Military Governor of California, under the appointment given him by Stockton himself, in the previous year 1846. After Stockton's departure, (which I think was on the next day) with all his officers and men, General Kearny had with him a mere body guard of Dragoons, some fifteen to twenty men, and one officer, Major Emory, (now General). Kearny who had seen me several times with the Commodore, sent for me to come to his rooms. I obeyed his summons. He asked me what was going on, and was informed that nothing of importance was occurring. He asked me if I was in no haste to leave town, as he desired me to stay with him, he had then no one with him that he could trust, and who knew the people. He followed up his conversation saying, "Fremont's course towards me is very extraordinary, he declined to recognize me as Commander in Chief. I have no power to enforce my authority. Fremont has a large force with him of undisciplined men, and I hear all kinds of rumors of his intentions and acts. I only now propose to remain here a few days to give Mr. Fremont full time to deliberate, perhaps he will then acknowledge my authority if not I will leave." He repeated several times some of the words, and requested me to communicate with my friends, and we all kept him posted on what was going on. These conversations lasted about two days. In the evening of the second or third day, he sent for me, and said he was going to leave in the morning, prefacing the information with the remark that he had heard no word from Fremont, he wanted me and some of my friends to ride with him. Next morning I waited on the General with two or three reliable native Californians, I think that among them were Don Jose Sepulveda, father of Judge Ignacio Sepulveda, and one of the Lugos. I was much surprised to find the General

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after we were out of town, on the road bound to San Diego, under some apprehension of foul play to his person, by some of the Fremont party. This produced in me a most disagreeable impression, though I then as now believe his apprehensions unfounded. I was anxious to leave in the evening of the first day's camping time for my Ranch; but he asked me particularly to camp with him that night, saying that we are not far enough from those fellows meaning Fremont, and his party. I accompanied the General as far as the Santa Ana River where I bade him goodbye, he expressed himself very thankful. I left for my Ranch, and never saw him afterwards.

In that same fall of 1847, I moved up all my stock, about two thousand head of cattle, passed through the Tulare Valley by way of Cajon de las Uvas,³⁵ there was not a white man living on that route, from San Fernando Mission to Sutter's Fort. Passing by what is now Stockton, I learned from some friendly Indians that Charles Weber was coming there to settle on his Ranch, which he got from Mr. Gulnac. I swam all my stock without losing any across the Sacramento River at the place now called Knight's Landing, and drove up the foot hills North of Cash Creek, at the place known as Lone Trees, and then left them in charge of my own companion in arms, Mat Harbin. Returned to Los Angeles City where I was engaged in merchandising. Nothing worthy of mention happened till 1849, when a convention was called by General Riley to form a Constitution for California. At this time, this part of the country was much depopulated by the rush to the gold placers that had been discovered in the spring of 1848. We held a public meeting and selected the best men we could find. Abel Stearns, Manuel Dominguez, Stephen C. Foster, etc. We had no direction to give to our representatives, except that we wished not to be a State as yet, but if we had to be a State, we although most of us Southern men, were positive that we wanted no slavery. We had enough of a variety of races, and the character of the country was not favorable to any but free labor. The following year California having been voted in the Constitution a State, we held a convention of the Southern country in Santa Barbara, at which I was a member,

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for the purpose of sending a protest to Congress, that in the case California was admitted as a state of the Union, the Southern portion would be allowed to form a Territorial Government, and allowed to remain as a Territory of the United States. Our efforts proved unavailing. After the State was organized, I was elected the first Clerk of the County of Los Angeles, making the condition with my friends, that I should not serve personally, but would appoint Doctor Wilson Jones, now of Arizona, my deputy, to run the office and have all the emoluments. When the town of Los Angeles was incorporated as a City the people elected me its first mayor. I only served a few months, and then resigned. In 1852 I was appointed by President Fillmore, Indian Agent for the Southern District, accompanied with a letter particularly requesting my acceptance, to help arrange Indian affairs in California, in conjunction with General Beale, (then Lieutenant) who had been appointed General Superintendent for the State. I did accept and accompanied Beale, and assisted to lay the Reservation at the Tejon, passing through the Tulare Valley, and holding council with different Indians, and then returned home by way of Santa Barbara. During that trip and subsequent events, I became thoroughly convinced that I could not continue in the office, in harmony with the Superintendent and others, especially in regard to the monies appropriated by the Government, so I resigned.³⁰ My commission, bears date September 1st, 1852. Signed by Millard Fillmore, President of the United States, and by Daniel Webster, Secretary of State, and bears the seal of the United States, term of office, four years from date. In 1855, I was elected State Senator and served out my term. Again served in 1869 and 1870. Since then I have spent my time as a horticulturist, in Los Angeles County, at Lake Vineyard. My family consists of a wife, and three daughters all living, and four grand-children, Inez, Barty, Edith, Ramona, and I hope to pass the remainder of my life in peace with God and man, as well as with myself.

Lake Vineyard.

December 6th, 1877.

B. D. Wilson

APPENDIX

1. Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians.

These were two tribes of Muskogehan stock. The Choctaw formerly occupied middle and southern Mississippi. After 1763 they began a westward migration and in the early decades of the 19th century were settled on the Sabine and Neches rivers and a few on the Red river. In 1832 they began their trek into Indian Territory having ceded most of their lands to the U. S. by various treaties.

The Chickasaw, neighbors and sometime allies of the Choctaw, were more warlike and fought bitterly against the Cherokee, Creeks, Illinois, Shawnee, Osage, etc. Sometimes they fought with the Choctaw. Through British influence they were enemies of the French. Originally they lived in northern Mississippi but they claimed territory in Tennessee, Kentucky and Georgia. Their main landing place on the Mississippi river was at Chickasaw Bluffs, now the site of Memphis. They held territory about the head waters of the Yazoo river, on which stream Wilson had his little trading post. They began to emigrate west of the Mississippi in 1822 and the last of them were removed in 1834. (*Hodge, F. W. Handbook of the American Indian, v.l, p.288*)

2. Fort Smith, Arkansas was at the junction of the Poteau with the Arkansas river, about one hundred and thirty miles west-northwest from Little Rock. It was built in 1817 on a site then known as Belle Pointe, which had been selected by Major Stephen H. Long. The post was erected under the supervision of Major William Bradford. A town was laid out in 1838 which has since grown into a prosperous city. (*James, T. Three Years Among the Indians and Mexicans, p.105*)

3. The Rocky Mountain Fur Company was originally organized by Major Andrew Henry and General William H. Ashley in March 1822. In July, 1826, Ashley then sole owner of the company sold his interests to Jedediah Strong Smith, David E. Jackson, and William L. Sublette, all former members of Ashley's company. On August 4, 1830 the outfit again changed hands but the name continued to be used. This time Thomas

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Fitzpatrick (famous among the border tribes as "Broken Hand"), Milton G. Sublette (brother of William), Henry Fraeb, J. B. Gervais, and James Bridger became the new owners. This famous organization was broken up at the summer rendezvous on Green River in 1834.

4. James Kirker was born in Belfast, Ireland, December 2, 1793. He arrived in New York, June 10, 1810 where he resided until the outbreak of the war of 1812. At that time he joined the crew of an American privateer *Black Joke*. In this vessel he cruised off the coast of Brazil until the ship was captured by the British. Later Kirker was exchanged with some other prisoners for those of the captured English vessel, the *Java*.

In 1817 Kirker went to St. Louis where he remained until 1822. In that year he joined the Ashley-Henry Rocky Mountain Fur Company and went with the trappers on an expedition into the upper Missouri country. After the defeat of Ashley by the Arikara, June 2, 1823, and the subsequent military fiasco of Colonel Leavenworth, Kirker left the Ashley party and returned down stream with the troops.

In 1824 Kirker went into New Mexico on a trapping expedition but his preliminary activities along that line terminated when his furs were seized and his trapping forbidden by Governor Narbone. Kirker then went to the copper mines of Santa Rita, owned by Robert McKnight, an American who was a former partner of the firm of McKnight & Brady, the second American concern to attempt the opening of trade relations with New Mexico via the Santa Fe route in 1812. However, McKnight had likewise fared badly at the hands of the Mexicans. His goods were confiscated and he was taken prisoner to Chihuahua where he remained nine years. In 1821 he was released. He tried in vain to get redress through United States officials and failed. Then he became a naturalized citizen of Mexico, began mining and freighting and amassed a comfortable fortune.

Both Kirker and Kit Carson worked for McKnight, the former continuing in McKnight's service for eight years. Each winter Kirker trapped on the Gila river, apparently without

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a license, and it was on the winter expedition of 1833 that Wilson joined his party. In 1835 Kirker obtained permission from Governor Don Alvino Perez of Santa Fe, to trade and trap among the Apache. Armed with this permit Kirker took a party of eighteen men into the Indian country and had a successful season. However, Mexican officials getting wind of his success sent an order to Governor Perez demanding Kirker's arrest, and decreed the confiscation of his property, alleging that the Governor possessed no authority to grant such a license to an alien and a heretic. Perez accordingly proclaimed Kirker an outlaw, seized his property and forced Kirker to flee the country with a reward of \$800 for his capture, dead or alive.

Thus forced to abandon New Mexico, Kirker sought refuge in Bent's Fort on the Arkansas and remained there until after the death of Perez in a revolution of 1836. Manuel Armijo, the one time sheep herder of Albuquerque, deposed the insurgent governor Jose Gonzales, and proclaimed himself governor. Kirker was invited to return to New Mexico, which he did.

About this time, according to Kirker, news was brought to Santa Fe of the raids of Apache Indians in the state of Chihuahua and he determined to go to the aid of his old friend McKnight who had suffered by the depredations. However, James Hobbs, one of the members of the band of Americans, Shawnee and Delaware Indians raised by Kirker, stated that Kirker had formerly been friendly with the Apaches, acting in concert with them, selling the stock they stole in Chihuahua to the inhabitants of New Mexico. For this reason the governor of Chihuahua had set a price of \$9,000 on Santiago Querque's head (the name by which Kirker was known to the Mexicans). This may have been the real reason why Kirker had to leave the Apache country in the year 1835. Then, according to Hobbs, Kirker desired to treat with the governor of Chihuahua and offered to turn against his Apache friends, stating that he had been taken prisoner while trapping among the Apache and had only to dispose of stolen goods to save his life.

Accordingly, an agreement was reached by Kirker and his motley crew of scalp hunters with the governor of Chihuahua

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whereby the human wolves were to get \$50 apiece for all Apache scalps, as well as a certain percentage of the stolen animals and goods recovered from the Indians. The Shawnee warriors were headed by one Spybuck, apparently a self reliant, fearless rascal who killed and scalped as readily as his grandfather had done when the tribe lived in Kentucky. Kirker afterward related that he and his mixed band killed four hundred and eighty-seven Apaches and only lost three men.

However, trouble developed between the scalp hunters and the Mexicans. Spybuck threatened to scalp the governor of Chihuahua in his own palace. The governor mollified the angry, half drunken Shawnee and began gathering his troops to take care of the obstreperous gang.

Spybuck, noticing the activity of the troops, the next day informed Kirker that if they stayed they would lose everything they had and told the Irishman that the Shawnee were taking their share of the horses and going home. This they did. Kirker stayed in Chihuahua and continued on in the service of the government. Although he was a non-citizen he was allowed the pay of a colonel in the Mexican army, not being able to accept a commission.

He stayed in Mexico until the outbreak of the Mexican War. The governor of Chihuahua, learning of the approach of the invading army from the north, offered Kirker a colonel's commission and the command of a body of soldiers if he would stay and aid Mexico in the coming conflict. However, Kirker, influenced by the Magoffin brothers and other traders, declined and struck north to join the American army. Accompanied by four other men he traveled seventeen days and fell in with Colonel Doniphan's command the morning after the battle of Brazito which occurred December 25, 1846. According to all reports Kirker served faithfully and well. At first he was regarded with some suspicion, since his activities in Chihuahua were well known, but later his services as guide and interpreter were welcomed by Doniphan and his command.

After the war, Kirker returned to St. Louis and turned his attention to piloting emigrant trains to California. In appear-

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ance Kirker was described as being a short, stout, athletic man, blue eyed, gray haired, gray whiskered and weighing about one hundred and seventy-five pounds. He was noted as a hard drinker. He settled near Mount Diablo, Contra Cost County, California in 1852 and died there sometime in 1853. A pass through the mountains near Mt. Diablo was named after him.

For references to Kirker see, Don Santiago Kirker, The Indian Fighter, *Santa Fe Republican*, Nov. 20, 1847; Hobbs, James, Wild Life in the Far West, pp. 81-100, Hartford, 1874; Connelley, Wm. E., Doniphan's Expedition, pp. 95, 97, 98, 99, 101, 102, 106, 386, 388, 389, 400, 405, 416. Ruxton, G. F., Adventures in Mexico, pp. 278, 282-283; Gregg, Josiah, Commerce of the Prairies, Vol. XX, Early Western Travels, p. 103. James, Thomas, Three Years Among the Mexicans and Indians, reprint by Douglas, pp. 98, 155. Personal Narrative of Stephen H. Meek, The Golden Era, April, 1885; Bancroft, H. H. History of Arizona and New Mexico, pp. 321-322 and History of Contra Costa County, pp. 128, 352, San Francisco, 1882.

5. This is probably the most detailed description of the true facts concerning the massacre of the Apache leader Juan Jose by Johnson. It was such acts, committed by Johnson, Kirker, Glanton and Lamberg the Dane that undoubtedly led to the troubles between the Apaches and the Americans. John G. Bourke in his book, "On the Border with Crook", N. Y. 1891 p. 118 states: "When the Americans entered the territory occupied or infested by the Apaches, all accounts agree that the Apaches were friendly."

Another version of the slaying of Juan Jose by Johnson is that he rescued a young Mexican girl captive from Juan Jose's band and she notified the American of a plot to slay all of the Americans and steal their goods. The girl was later married into the Ramirez family in Oposura. She died in Opata in 1879.

Johnson arrived in Mexico in 1835. Shortly afterwards he married Delfina Gutierrez, born in San Miguel but educated in Oposura. An article by Henry S. Brooks in *The Californian*, October 1880 states that it was John Johnson not James John-

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son who perpetrated this bloody deed. A poem, commemorating the recovery of the captive Autora is reported by Brooks to have been popular on the frontier for many years. The following is the Spanish version of the song.

*Versos Compuestos en la Campana que Hizo Don Juan
Johnson a la Sierra de Las Animas*

En esa sierra mentada
De las Animas, paso
Donde se llegó ese día
Que Juan José falleció
Y otros en su compañía

Fué infiel en su nacimiento,
Tuvo la fe de cristiano
Ese Judío falso y tirano:
Su muerte fué en un momento,
Se la dio un Americano
Dónde se le iría el talento?

Don Juan Johnson apareció
Sin saber de donde venía
Cuando el manos acordó
Ya estaba en la Ranchería.

Y Juan José, incomodado
Le habla con este destino
Qué andas haciendo tú aquí
Si, por aquí no es camino?

Don Juan Johnson le responde,
De esto no tengas cuidado,
Yo voy para nuestra tierra,
Ya no nos quiere este estado.

Juan José ha trato convida
Con un debido placer—
Americanos, amigos,
Traen pólvora que vender?

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Don Juan Johnson le responde,
Yo voy para mi destino
Es muy poca la que traigo,
Y es largo nuestro camino.

Juan José como-traitor
Trata de buscarle abrigo—
Dónde quires ir tan lejos
Quedate a vivir commigo.

Don Juan Johnson le responde
Si la pólvora te apura
Me darás una cautiva
Que trajiste de Oposura.

A Juan José gustó el trato
Y leugo se dejó caer
Pues, como no sea más de eso
Pronto la mando traer.

Don Juan Johnson por cabal
Dice a Juan José valiente —
Determine del costal
Manda socorrer tu gente.

Juan Diego, ese tatolero,
Nunca ignoraba la espera
Pero le trozó el murillo
A aquella fuerte cadena.

Although Wilson states that Johnson came to California, Brooks said the "Johnsons are still living and flourishing in Sonora, and the descendants have proved themselves not unworthy of their sire. Don Manuel Johnson was killed March 1872 at Culiacan, in fighting against General Marquez, who has been heard of recently in Lower California and Sonora. Johnson was Pesqueira's Chief of Cavalry, and displayed the most reckless and desperate bravery throughout the campaign. Don Ricardo Johnson, with whom many Californians are well acquainted, is the present head of the family."

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6. The work to which Wilson refers is now the famous "Commerce of the Prairies", 2 v. New York, 1844. It was written by one who knew the Santa Fe trade most thoroughly. Dr. Josiah Gregg was born in Overton County, Tenn., July 19, 1806. He was noted as a trader in New Mexico and northern Mexico 1831-1839. During the Mexican War he was a correspondent for American newspapers. He died in California in the winter of 1849-1850. (Connelly, Wm. E., Doniphan's Expedition by Hughes, Kanas City, Mo. 1907, p. 162).

7. From all accounts Governor Armijo was little more than a clever, nimble fingered sheep-herder who became a politician and turned from sheep stealing to stealing the governorship of New Mexico. George W. Kendall, editor of the New Orleans *Picayune* who wrote "The Texan Expedition to Santa Fe", 2 v. N. Y. 1844, and who was one of the prisoners of Armijo, wrote the following rather uncomplimentary biographical sketch of Armijo: "Manuel Armijo was born of low and disreputable parents, at or near Albuquerque. From his earliest childhood his habits were bad. He commenced his career by petty pilfering and as he advanced in years, extended his operations until they grew into important larcenies".

It will be remembered that Armijo was governor of New Mexico when General Kearny entered that Territory in the summer of 1846, and Armijo was "induced" by President Polk's secret emissary, a well-known merchant-trader, James Magoffin, to abandon the defense of New Mexico and leave for Chihuahua.

8. Samuel J. Hensley was born in Kentucky in 1817. In common with so many of the early American pioneers into California, Hensley had been a "mountain man" for several years. trapping in New Mexico and the adjacent region, prior to the trouble mentioned by Wilson. He came to California in 1843 and became naturalized in 1844. He obtained the grant to Agua de Nieves Rancho, and was in the employ of Captain Sutter as supercargo on the latter's launch. He served as commissary to Sutter's party of foreigners during the

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Micheltorena campaign. After this he was major-domo for Sutter. He took part in the Bear Flag Revolt, and was a captain and later a major in the California Battalion in the south. He went east with Commodore Stockton in 1847 to testify in the Stockton-Fremont trial, and returned to California in 1848. He was in the mines for a short time in 1848-1849, and then opened a store in Sacramento. He was one of the founders and for awhile, president of the California Steam Navigation Company. He resided many years at San Jose and died at Warm Springs, Alameda Co., at the age of forty-nine, in 1866. He was survived by a wife and two children. (Bancroft, H. H. History of California, V111, p.781)

9. The Judas of the Texan Expedition was William Lewis, in command of the artillery section of the party. Had it not been for his treachery, the expedition might have been successful. He sold out to Armijo, as Wilson states, and induced his comrades to surrender their arms to the New Mexican forces by false statements concerning the strength of the enemy, and later, after his treacherous deed became known, fled frst to Chihuahua where he had previously lived, then moved out to the Pacific Coast, from whence it is alleged he shipped to Peru. (Kendall, Geo. W, Texan Santa Fe Expedition, N. Y. 1844 v.2, pp.80-83.)

10. William Knight was a native of Indiana, He was a naturalized citizen of Mexico and married to a New Mexican woman. When the Rowland-Workman party left New Mexico, Knight's wife remained in that territory, but in 1842 Knight returned for her and brought her back to California. He settled on the Sacramento River in 1843 at a point now known as Knight's Landing. He was in Gnatt's company in the Micheltorena trouble in 1845. In 1846 he obtained a grant of land. no doubt as a result of Pico's promise to the Americans that land would be granted them for the asking if they would forsake the cause of Micheltorena. He was an actor in the Bear Flag drama and later took part in the gold rush. He established Knight's Ferry on the Stanislaus after the

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discovery of gold. Originally, it is said, he was educated as a physician. He was a rough, violent man, preferring to settle fancied insults by hot deeds rather than diplomacy. He died at Knight's Ferry in 1849. (Bancroft, Hist. of Calif. v. IV, p. 702.)

11. Wilson states the party arrived in Los Angeles in Nov., 1841, but David W. Alexander, another member of the same group, says they were at Cucamonga on December 12, 1841. The outfit was four months on the road, according to Alexander, and came over the "Old Mexican Trail" via the Wasatch Mountains and Little Salt Lake. Alexander arrived in Santa Fe after the revolt against Governor Perez. In later years Alexander was a well known figure in business and political circles of Los Angeles. He was appointed Collector of Customs in 1846 by Commodore Stockton, and he was in the forwarding and lightering business at San Pedro from 1844 to 1849. After the discovery of gold he was a partner of Francis Mellus, and later joined forces with Phineas Banning, remaining in business with the latter until 1855. He was sheriff of Los Angeles County in 1855-56 and again in 1876-77. He was thrice elected to the Board of Supervisors. "Don David" Alexander died at Wilmington, April 30, 1887. (From a sketch of his life by H. D. Barrows, *Ann'l Pub. Hist. Soc. of So. Calif.* v. IV, pp. 43-45.)

12. The Jurupa Ranch was the first important grant made in what is now Riverside County, Juan Bandini having obtained it in 1838. It constituted about 31,000 acres and stretched along both banks of the Santa Ana river for a distance of twenty miles. Bandini built the first house on his grant in 1839. On May 6, 1843, he sold 1½ leagues of land to Wilson. (Rensch, H. E. and E. G. *Historic Spots in California*, Stanford University 1932, pp. 130-131.)

13. This was the famous Rancho Santa Ana del Chino, originally one of the ranchos of Mission San Gabriel. After the secularization of the mission it was granted to Antonio

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Maria Lugo. The Chino ranch house built by Col. Isaac Williams in which the Americans took refuge in 1846, stood about three miles south west of the present town of Chino. Williams came to California with Ewing Young in 1832. He was known as "Don Julian" to the native Californians. Oddly enough, although all accounts seem to agree that Williams came with Young from New Mexico, in the Hayes Notes, mss. Bancroft Library is a copy of a "List of Foreigners in Los Angeles, May 23 1836", Julian Williams, age 38, native of the United States listed the Sandwich Islands as his former residence. Williams married a daughter of Antonio Maria Lugo and the latter deeded him a half interest in Chino Rancho in 1841. It was one of the finest ranches in the entire southland. In 1851, Lugo deeded the remainder of the ranch to his son-in-law. Williams died in 1856. The ranch passed through various hands after William's death and in 1896 was purchased by an English syndicate and broken into small tracts. (Rensch, id. pp. 152-155. See also "The Letter Book of the Rancho del Chino" in this issue of the Publication of the Historical Society of Southern California.)

14. Enrique Avila according to Bancroft was "probably the son of Anastasio Avila." Enrique was the second alcalde of Los Angeles in 1847.

15. Cabezon was one of two prominent Cahuilla chieftains during the period 1840-1870 who ruled the border with an iron hand. He was friendly to the whites and maintained fair discipline over his band. His rancheria, or headquarters was midway between that of Toro and Martinez in the Coahuilla Valley and about thirty five miles from Agua Caliente (probably what is now Palm Springs). Wilson referred to Cabezon in his report of 1852. The old leader and his people worked in the vineyards around Los Angeles for the munificent sum of seventy-five cents a day during the 1850's. On July 4, 1857 Cabezon and his band were the guests of honor at the Independence Day celebration held in San Bernardino. In 1862 he was mentioned in the Annual Report of the Commis-

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sioner of Indian Affairs as being the head chief of all the tribesmen in the Coahuilla Valley. Eleven years later he was living in San Gorgonio Pass, "a venerable old man, upwards of ninety years of age." He attended a meeting with John G. Ames of the Indian Department at Potrero, in San Gorgonio Pass early in August 1873. Ames remarked: "He is a remarkable man, venerated by all of his people over whom he has long exercised a powerful influence and always in the interest of peace and good will towards the whites. Through his efforts the tribe has been kept from allying itself with the tribes on the Colorado river for the purpose of making war upon the whites."

At this same meeting Cabezon declared that he was growing too old to be a good leader any more and he wished his son appointed chief of the Cahuillas. At that time there were 1080 Cahuilla Indians under the old chieftain and his *capitanes*.

In October 1874, Cabezon visited Los Angeles with a party of his men, and said the editor of the *Star* "We did not learn the object of their visit. The old chief is about as antiquated a specimen of humanity as we ever looked upon." It was also remarked in the *Star* of October 11, that Cabezon was baptized in the old Plaza Church during this visit.

Two photographs, probably those of the son of Cabezon, made in San Bernardino in 1892 now hang in the History Hall of the Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park.

At present the name of the wise old Cahuilla leader is perpetuated in the misspelled place name of CABASON on the main highway a few miles east of Banning in San Gorgonio Pass. Old Cahuilla Indians living at Palm Springs yet remember their ancient leader and his son and speak feelingly of them.

(Report of B. D. Wilson, Indians of Southern California, made in 1852, printed in *Los Angeles Star*, June 12, 1868. Other items on Cabezon will be found in the *Star* for Feb. 13 1869; Oct. 2, 1874 and Oct. 11, 1874; The *Daily Alta California*, Sept. 29 1853; The *San Francisco Steamer Bulletin*, Aug. 5, 1858; Ingersoll, L. S, *History of San Bernardino County*, p. 351 Ann'l. Rept. Comm. Ind. Aff's, 1862, p. 326 and Ann'l. Rept. Comm. Ind. Aff's. 1873, pp. 33-34.)

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16. This was the famous, almost mythical place, "La Gran Quivira" for which Coronado sought. He found his rainbow end in a grass thatched Wichita village many weary miles out upon the plains, not at all the city of gold he hoped to discover. The name Grand Quivira was applied to this particular ruin many years later. Gregg described this ruin or rather series of ruins located in northeastern Socorro county, New Mexico, on a desolate mesa, one hundred and fifty miles south of Santa Fe. It was probably a pueblo of the Piros Indians, known as Tabira. It was first visited by the Spaniards in 1581. A mission church, the ruins of which Wilson and his party found, was originally built in 1628, a newer and larger church being erected in 1644. The site was abandoned between 1670 and 1675 because of Apache raids. The immediate water supply of the mission was kept in artificial reservoirs, no doubt supplied by the aqueduct mentioned by Wilson. These reservoirs were of course dry when visited by the trapping party, hence their trouble in locating the headwaters which originally flowed through the zanja. In December 1854 a party headed by Major Carleton of the United States Army visited the ruins and described them in an account published in the San Francisco Daily Harald, Sat. Feb. 3, 1855. (Other mention of Gran Quivira may be found in Gregg's Commerce of the Prairies; Early Western Travels, v. 19, p. 301; Journey of Coronado, edited by Geo. Parker Winship and F. W. Hodge, the Grabhorn Press, San Francisco, 1933, p. xxxv) These ruins are now a National Monument.

17. Vide Note. No. 4

18. These same ruins were seen and reported by the famous mountain man, Captain Joseph Walker, in an article, "Discovery of Ruined Cities within the Great Basin", San Francisco Herald, Sun. Sept. 25, 1853. Walker passed through that country in 1850, and being a keen observer noted everything of interest.

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19. As with many of the early mountain men, and for that matter their modern followers, the desert prospectors, concretions formed naturally by the action of the elements are often mistaken for objects of man's handicraft. Similar deposits of spherical concretions have been found in Arizona and New Mexico. These have been facetiously termed "petrified melons" "stone pumpkin patches", "cannon balls" etc. Odd, fantastic forms cut from sandstone may be picked up on the desert on both sides of the road in the Imperial valley, California, a few miles below Indio on the main highway to El Centro.

20. The Micheltorena revolt was brought about about, as Wilson observes, by the actions of the *cholo* army, the *Battallon Fijo de California*, recruited among the convicts of Mexico by Micheltorena, in 1842. However, there were undoubtedly other causes, such as the ambitions of the native "*Californios*" to hold office in their own territory, so all of the trouble cannot be laid directly at the door of Micheltorena's rabble. Manuel Micheltorena, according to the concensus of opinion, was an affable, gentlemanly sort of a fellow but lacking in executive tact and firmness requisite for a leader, hence he had to go.

21. Vide No. 8

22. According to Bancroft, James McKinley was a young Scotch sailor was left stranded at either San Francisco or Santa Barbara in 1824 by a whaler. He is frequently mentioned in the records from 1830 on. He traveled about a great deal, but in the early days seems to have claimed Monterey as his residence. He went to Los Angeles as a special agent for Thomas O. Larkin in 1835, at which time he was thirty-two years old. By occupation he was a sailor and merchant. He was one of the foreigners in the Micheltorena revolt. He purchased part of the lands of Missions San Juan Capistrano and San Luis Obispo in 1844-45. Prior to 1846 he had moved to Los Angeles, but in that year he shifted back to Monterey where he was arrested in 1847 by Lt. Maddox, who hoped to gain information of the military movements of the Californians

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in the south. He married Carmen Amesti in 1848. McKinley died in Monterey in 1875 leaving several children. (Bancroft, Hist. Calif. v. IV, p. 725)

23. Bancroft lists the names of the party according to a declaration made by John Rowland at Los Angeles on Feb. 28, 1842, as follows: Fred Bachelor, Frank Bedibey, James Doke, Jacob Frankfort, Isaac Given, Wm. Gamble, Wm. Gordon. Frank Gwinn, Wade Hampton, Wm. Knight, Thos. Lindsay, J. H. Lyman, John McClure, James D. Mead, Wm. C. Moon, John Rowland, Daniel Sexton, Hiram Taylor, Tibeau, Albert G. Toomes, Michael White, Benj. D. Wilson and Wm. Workman.

24. Archibald Gillespie was a young lieutenant of Marines chosen by President Polk to carry confidential dispatches to Larkin and Fremont in 1845. He was a major in the California Battalion.

He seems to have been a rather tactless, bombastic man, inclined to exercise his authority in a manner calculated to incur the enmity of those with whom he came in contact. His actions at Los Angeles seem inexcusable. Later at San Diego he caused the arrest of J. J. Warner and had the latter imprisoned as a traitor just prior to the arrival of Kearny's forces. Later, in August, 1859, Gillespie, then in Sacramento, wrote a somewhat hypocritical letter concerning this episode which Col. E. J. C. Kewen used in a political fued against Warner. This was published in the *Los Angeles Star*, Sept. 3, 1859. At the same time a counter charge against the character of Gillespie was made by William Governeur Morris in the public press, alleging that Gillespie had been forced to resign his commission in the Marine Corps over some irregularity in the mess fund on board the ship upon which Gillespie was serving, said fund having been in Gillespie's charge. Morris further stated that Capt. William Mervine, Gillespie's commanding officer, had made the charges public in the press in 1855. According to the records of the U. S. Marine Corps, Gillespie resigned on October 14, 1854 and there

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is nothing on his record to indicate this scandal. I have been unable to find either a refutation of Morris's charges or the public expose by Mervine. Morris, the author of the letter accusing Gillespie, seems to have come from an old New York family and was for many years prominent in Pacific coast affairs. Gillespie died in San Francisco, in 1873, age sixty. (Hist. Soc. of So. Calif. Pub. v. 8. p. 100, also various items in *Los Angeles Star*, Aug. Sept. 1859 and letter from H. Q. U. S. Marine Corps, Oct, 23, 1934.)

25. José Del Carmen Lugo, the son of Antonia Maria Lugo, was born in Los Angeles in 1813. He was *regidor* of Los Angeles in 1838-39. He received the grant of Rancho San Bernardino in 1842. At this time he hired Juan Antonio, the powerful leader of the San Gorgonio Pass Cahuillas, to settle at the little village of Apolitana, the site of which is on a small knoll just outside the present city of San Bernardino, and act as border guard and defenders of Cajon Pass against marauding Utes and Paiutes from Nevada and Utah. Lugo was *alcalde* in Los Angeles in 1849. In 1852 a party of Texas renegades headed by "Red" Irvin attacked the Lugo ranch. Irvin and eleven of his men were killed by the efficient Juan Antonio and his warriors. Lugo sold his ranch in the same year to the Mormons who there founded the city of San Bernardino. In 1863 Lugo lost all of his property. He dictated his memoirs entitled "Vida de un Ranchero" to Bancroft's representative in 1878. He had a wife and four daughters. (*Los Angeles Star*, May 31, and June 7, 1851. Bancroft, Hist. Calif. v. IV, p. 722. *Touring Topics*, Dec. 1929 "The Lugos and Their Indian Ally" by Marjorie T. Wolcott.)

26. The following note concerning Cerbulo Varela was in the manuscript in Bancroft Library, apparently inserted as an afterthought: "Cerbulo Varela some years later was found dead one morning with his throat cut--near the *zanja* in Spanish town or Sonora district of Los Angeles--he was no doubt killed by the Indians there in some drunken row. Several versions of the affair have been given--one of them, I hear was, that he was in the act of stealing a horse. If such a charge

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has ever been brought against his memory it must be unfounded for he, with all his faults and weaknessess, was no thief."

27. The last of the old adobe walls of the original building which stood on the spot later occupied by the St. Charles Hotel on Main Street were torn down in June 1870. The first structure on this site, undoubtedly the one occupied by Wilson and his fellow prisoners, was erected in 1835 by Col. Isaac Williams. Three American mountain men constructed the building. William Wolfskill laid the adobes while Joseph Paulding and Richard Laughlin did the carpenter and joiner work. The lot on which this combined store and residence stood extended to Commercial Street on the south, to Los Angeles Street on the east, and fronted on Main Street. The house extended from the north corner of the lot southerly along Main occupying about half the front of the lot. A wall running east and west subdivided the lot. An adobe "box" wall, partly built of stone, enclosed the lot. Wolfskill laid this wall. During the occupancy of Los Angeles by Micheltorena and later in Pico's term of governorship, it was occupied as official headquarters. When the Californians abandoned it, the U. S. used it in 1846. Later Williams recovered his property. A hotel and restaurant were opened in this building in Nov. 1849 by a Mr. Roland, a Frenchman, following a brief month's occupancy of the premises by Maj. Wm. P. Reynolds as a saloon. From that date until the end of June 1870, the old structure was occupied continuously by different owners as a hotel, saloon, and restaurant. In that year alterations began and it was changed to a two story brick building, and known as the Bella Union Hotel. Previously, in 1859, part of the building had been remodeled, and again in August 1861 more of the old adobe was torn down to be replaced with brick. However, June 1870 saw the last of the original building demolished. (*Los Angeles Star*, Sun. June 26, 1870; Apr. 9, 1859; May 28, 1859; August 17, 1861.)

28. Dr. Richard Den was an Irish physician who settled in Los Angeles in 1843. His brother Dr. Nicholas Augustus Den,

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had arrived in 1836 and was living at Santa Barbara. These were two of the first foreigners to practice medicine in Southern California. Dr. John Griffin who came as surgeon to Kearny's troops was the third. (Bancroft, Hist. Calif. v. II, p. 779)

29. Although Wilson states that Eulogio Celis was a doctor, Bancroft asserts that this gentleman came to California as Spanish supercargo on the ship *Leonor* in 1836. He was often mentioned in the records during the period 1830-1850. He made his home in Los Angeles and was one of the grantees of the San Fernando estate in 1846. Later he was a wealthy business man, well known in all parts of California. He went to Spain in 1853 and died in 1868. (Bancroft, id. v. II, p. 755)

30. Captain William Mervine was a commander in the U. S. Navy in 1846, having command of the *Cyane* and the *Savannah*. He raised the flag at Monterey and took command of the shore forces. At the outbreak of the Flores revolt, he sailed to San Pedro and was defeated in the Battle of Dominguez Ranch in October 1846. He went east in 1847. During the War of the Rebellion he served as captain, 1861-1865. It was he who accused Gillespie of misappropriation of the mess fund on the *Independence* in 1854, according to Morris.

31. This was the action of October 8 and 9 when a force of 299 men was landed from the *Savannah* and the whaler *Vandalia* upon which latter vessel Gillespie and his volunteers had taken refuge after his retreat from Los Angeles.

All forces were ashore by 11:30 on the morning of the 8th. At 8 o'clock however, several companies under Capt. Wm. Mervine started ahead to recapture the Pueblo. However the day was hot, the wild mustard plants thick, water scarce, the dust suffocating, and the enemy elusive. All factors combined to retard the progress of the sailors, marines, Colt's riflemen, and volunteers. They made a miserable camp that night, their rest being punctuated by rifle shots.

The morning of the 9th dawned just as hot and in addition to small arms the enemy brought artillery into play against

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the camp. Detachments of marines and riflemen set out to capture the piece, but the *Californios* snaked it out of reach with their reatas. In fact, the American foot soldiers never saw the confounded thing. Despairing of capturing the cannon and hearing reports of a superior force of the enemy in the Pueblo with more artillery, the Americans did an about face and dragged themselves back to the sea shore. Men reached the landing utterly exhausted, "many being barely able to drag one foot after the other from excessive fatigue." On the following day the Americans buried William A. Smith, Charles Sommer, David Johnson, and William Hoey on the island in the harbor as a result of wounds received in the fight, and on Sunday, October 11, they buried William H. Berry on the island and, said Midshipman Duvall, "Sent his body on 'Dead Man's Island' so named by us." Such was the disastrous ending of the Battle of Dominguez Ranch.

(Notes from MSS "Log Kept by Midshipman Robert C. Duvall of the Savannah, U.S.N., on the coast of California 1846-1847" courtesy of Mr. Lanier Bartlett.)

32. Jose Antonio Esequiel Carrillo was born in 1796. He was quite active in California affairs for twenty-five years. He had a penchant for political intrigue and was never satisfied unless he had his finger in the local political pie. Bancroft says of him, "He was a man of remarkable natural abilities for the most part unimproved and wasted. Slight modifications in the conditions and his character might have made him the foremost of Californians--either the best or the worst. None excelled him in intrigue and he was never without a plot on hand. There was nothing he would not do to oblige a friend or get the better of a foe; and there were few of any note who were not at one time or another both his foes and friends. No Californian could drink so much brandy as he with so little effect. A man of fine appearance and iron constitution; of generous impulses, one of the few original and prominent characters in early California annals. He died in Santa Barbara in 1862." Carrillo commanded the detachment of volunteer rancheros known as "Las Hilachas" (The Ragged Ones) during the trouble in 1846.

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(Bancroft, *Hist. of Calif.* v. II p. 745 and MSS "Cosas de California" the memoirs of Antonio Coronel in Bancroft Library)

33. The action between the forces under General Stephen Watts Kearny and the *ranchero soldados* of Andres Pico occurred about four o'clock in the morning of December 6, 1846. It was a running fight, a decided mistake on the part of Kearny. The latter claimed the victory. Perhaps it was a technical victory. The Americans held the field with 19 killed outright and two who died later of their wounds. There were about 19 wounded. The Californians did not retreat from the neighborhood. They simply went down stream a few miles and camped. They resumed hostilities next day and drove Kearny into a low rocky peak where they encircled his worn out, starving dragoons with three lines of sentries. Kearny was rescued from this perilous position by reinforcements sent from San Diego. Had these not been forthcoming, there is not much doubt but that he would have had to surrender. The Californians lost but one man, Francisco Lara, and had 11 wounded. Yet it was an American victory!

34. It has been asserted that these two pieces of ordnance were planted in front of the old City Hall on north Broadway. Unless I am mistaken, this is an error. The two rusted old cannon which were set in the ground on Commercial street by Wilson, now flank the eastern, unused entrance to the Los Angeles Museum in Exposition Park. The trunnions and cascabels of these iron guns are battered off, and the rust line, indicating that portion of the muzzles which was buried in the earth, shows plainly on both guns. An old photograph in the collection of Antonio Coronel, deposited in the library of the Museum, shows the cannon buried in the street, breech upward.

35. Cajon de las Uvas (Grapevine Canyon). The main highway from Los Angeles to Bakersfield now passes through this canyon. It was in this same ravine, or rather in a side canyon

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of this pass, that Fort Tejon was later established in the fall of 1854, the site having been adopted instead of the original location, which was nearer the Sebastian Indian Reserve some few miles northwest of the Grapevine.

36. It is interesting to note the high regard in which Wilson was held by his contemporaries. The following extract from a manuscript copy of a letter, written by Judge Benjamin Hayes on the character of B. D. Wilson, the condition of Indian affairs and the politics concerning such appointments, adds considerable interest to Wilson's all too terse comments on this interesting phase of his life. Judge Hayes took an active interest in the affairs of his day. Writing to David R. Atchinson of the U. S. Senate, January 14, 1853, he said:

"At this time I wish to say a word or two touching on Indian affairs. Let me beg you notice the report of the Indian agent for this district, Benjamin D. Wilson, Esq. I am acquainted of my own knowledge with nearly all the facts stated by him concerning the character of these Indians, the country they live in, their troubles for the last three years and the causes of them. I have traveled over a great part of their country and camped in it. My opportunities have been various and constant for observing them, and I have given no little attention to the subject. More I suspect than any other resident here unless I except Mr. Wilson.

"A man who has never mixed with these Indians, can have no idea of the utter difference between them and those of the Great Plains—whose character for the chase and war has so long baffled the benevolent designs of the Government. This Report ought to be printed by Congress and circulated generally in this state and elsewhere. It presents the true plan for managing these Indians and the boldness with which he asserts the legal right of the Mission Indians to their property in the face of speculators in Mission titles, some of them otherwise his bosom friends, might immortalize some men, even of greater ability and in higher station.

"I am partly induced to write this letter—without his knowledge (for I shall not shew it to him) by having heard this

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evening, that some half dozen worthy men who suppose the whole right and responsibility of the different officers here is upon their shoulders, think of getting up a sort of recommendation of Don Antonio F. Coronel for this office. I know him intimately, respect him, and would do anything reasonable to advance his interests. He has been assessor of this county, is rather popular, clever and sprightly, has been active as a Democrat in the two political elections we have had here as yet, supported *me* warmly, but, I cannot conscientiously favor him for this responsible post. He is a Mexican by birth but has been in California some years; he is not a 'native Californian'. So that his appointment would be no extraordinary compliment to the 'native Californians' (as they are called). They might be flattered by something of the kind for the matter of 'nine days' or so; if any letters from here assert differently, I assure you, it is mere stuff."

"I know the 'Californians' well. And all of them who would not associate with the idea of *directing out the Indians by force to work on the ranchos*, would infinitely prefer some competent American to one of their own number under present circumstances.

"Candidly this office ought to be filled by an American or somebody who can speak English. This seems to be the *sine qua non*, they are to be reared to the uses of American civilization which cannot be easily separated from the language in which it expresses itself. Mr. Coronel does not write, read or speak English. It is no disparagement of his other qualities, to say, frankly, that he has not that degree of *moral courage* requisite for an Indian agent in California.

"There is an absolute necessity of having men here of an iron firmness to execute laws, without respect to local caprices, or interests, or prejudices. I do not believe the Indian intercourse laws can be enforced here by any but an American—against Americans (of whom there may be plenty to violate them). This is of daily experience in judicial and other proceedings. Generally speaking, a 'Californian' will not accept an office to which any similar responsibility is attached. You could not get one, for example, to run for Sheriff or Con-

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stable—not because he could not be elected: but for the reason that he naturally shuns civil positions of difficulty or danger.

"Besides if you have such an Agent all your sub-agents must be of the same class; Americans will not be under the control of such an Agent. They will either resign or they will control him; which I suppose is not the spirit of the law.

"The last would be the result invariably, and any system whatsoever would become full of abuses. I should tremble for the poor Indians subjected to them.

"Moreover grave questions are agitated in relation to the rights of these Indians—and many white persons—under the old laws in force here concerning the Missions etc. The men who took part in the public transactions from 1834 to July 1846, in California might be good *witnesses* in regard to them; but, I will ask in sober earnest, would they be the best judges, or would they make the proper representatives of the rights and interests of others, which their own acts as legislators or otherwise whether of omission or commission, may have directly affected.

"The condition of the Indians during the period referred to, is a black page of history. I believe, Mr. Coronel then was never more than *Alcalde*. But it is readily seen, the Government needs men without even that connection with so unfortunate an epoch of Indian misrule, oppression and injustice. There is more in this objection than I can conveniently put to paper.

"Mr. Wilson is an old mountaineer, and a gentleman in every sense of the word. He is wealthy, and independent and so does not need this office. His wealth has come to him in a measure, suddenly, by the rise of property; after many 'hard knocks' in the Rocky Mountains, and here, before, during, and since the War. He has been in some little campaigns formerly against portions of these Indians, and knows them, and they know him well. Before his appointment, their chiefs visiting this city habitually came to see and talk with him about their business, as much as if he were their agent.

"Notoriously he is a favorite with them—no stranger. His good sense, kindness of heart, knowledge of the mountain life, familiarity with all the tribes and reputation for integrity of

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purpose are difficult to combine in any one else that may be recommended from this quarter. He reminds me a good deal of old Maj. Cumings of Wesport, Mo.

"It would be good policy to keep him in this office, at any rate until some efficient plan is put in operation for the benefit of these Indians: the difficulty of making any plan work well is at the beginning. A removal ought not to be made prematurely or hastily. . . ."

The report to which Judge Hayes alludes in the fore part of his letter was one entitled "The Indians of Southern California--Report of Hon. B. D. Wilson, 1852". It was addressed to the Superintendent of Indian Affairs and was dated Los Angeles, Dec. 20, 1852. This article was quite extensive and dealt with the problems of the tribes in southern California from the Coast to the Colorado river, As far as I am aware, it was not issued as a Government document, but it did appear in the *Los Angeles Star* (in full) in July 1868. It is worthy of re-printing, since it contains a very good resumé of the Indian problem at the beginning of Federal relations with our California tribesmen.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

C A L E N D A R
1 9 3 4

January 9

Address — GOLD AND THE ARGONAUTS
An illustrated lecture by *Philip Johnston*
Election of Directors

February 6

Installation of new officers

Remarks by the President

Address—DEATH VALLEY, ITS HISTORY, TRAGEDY
AND ROMANCE

- a. "Mrs. Brier's account of the escape from Death Valley" - *Dr. Robert Glass Cleland*
- b. "Sands the Jayhawkers Trod" - an illustrated travelogue - *Miss Kathryn Ronan*, Manager, Furnace Creek Inn, Death Valley

March 6

Address — HISTORY AND SOCIAL INTELLIGENCE
Professor Avery Craven

April 3

Address — ENLARGING THE HISTORICAL CIRCLE
Janet Williams Gould
History of Corona and Environs

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

May 1

Address — THE FOUNDER OF THE MISSIONS
Rev. Joseph Thompson, O.F.M.

June 16

FOURTH ANNUAL LANDMARKS PILGRIMAGE
San Fernando Valley and Placeritas Canyon. Attendance at the Pageant "The Heritage from Spain" at Mission San Fernando

September 11

Address - THE MAKING OF CALIFORNIA'S FIRST CONSTITUTION - *Paul G. Sweetser*

October 11

Address - REMINISCENCES OF THE AUTHOR OF "RAMONA" - *Mrs. James King (Edith Shorb)*

November 13

Address — THE PLACE CALLED SESPE
Robert Glass Cleland, Ph.D.

RECAPTURING THE JOYS OF YESTERYEAR
Moving pictures of Los Rancheros Visitadores on trails of Santa Barbara Country - *Willis D. Longyear*

December 4

Annual Election of Directors

Address - THE BOOKS OF CALIFORNIA HISTORY
J. Gregg Layne

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